Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-078
Monday
22 April 1996

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-078 22 April 1996

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An • indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ISSUES

Russia: G-7 Heads Seen Coming to Moscow To 'Campaign' for Yeltsin *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 19 Apr]* 1
Russia: Yeltsin: Summit Not Staged To Win Polls *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Russia: Clinton Discusses June Polls With Russian Politicians *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Russia: INTERFAX-AiF: NATO Expansion Will Help Communist Victory 2
Russia: Yeltsin 'Convinced' of Victory in June Elections *[Moscow NTV]* 2
Russia: Zyuganov Wants No Link Between Summit, Russian Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Russia: Zyuganov Leads Yeltsin in Poll — 25 to 21 Percent *[Moscow Radio]* 4
Russia: St. Petersburg Poll Shows Yeltsin Gaining Ground *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA]* 4

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 20 Apr 5

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Russia: Clinton Combines Summit With Official Visit *[Moscow NTV]* 6
Russia: Yeltsin Meets With Canada's Chretien, Other G-7 Leaders *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 20 Apr]* 6
Russia: Yeltsin Receives EU Commission President Prior to G-7 Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Russia: Yeltsin Meets With Chirac, Kohl Prior to G-7 Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Russia: France Favors Russia's Admission to G-7 *[INTERFAX]* 7
Russia: Yeltsin Meets Hashimoto Prior to Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Russia: Chernomyrdin Receives Major Prior to Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Russia: Medvedev Statement on Test Ban Treaty, Nuclear Security *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Russia: Zyuganov Wants G-8 Conference To Be Useful for Russia *[INTERFAX]* 9
Russia: Kremlin Dinner 'Unofficial Opening' of G-8 Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Russia: G-8 Leaders' Speeches Emphasize Need for Nuclear Safety *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Russia: Leaders Issue Statement on Lebanon; Major Comments *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 10
Russia: G-8 Summit Calls For 'Immediate' Cease-Fire in Mideast *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Russia: Greenpeace Demonstrates on Moscow River Outside Kremlin *[Moscow NTV]* 10
Russia: Medvedev: Moscow Favors Ban on Nuclear Tests in Any Medium *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Russia: President Yeltsin Opens Moscow Summit on Nuclear Safety *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Russia: Moscow Ready To Stand Up to G-7 Pressure on Nuclear Issues *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 20 Apr]* 12
Russia: Major Nuclear Energy Producers Participating in Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Russia: G-7 Expected To Go Easy on Moscow's Nuclear Safety Record *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 Apr]* 13
Russia: G-7 Summit Hears Report on People Affected by Radiation *[INTERFAX]* 14
Russia: Nuclear Summit Decides on Closing Chernobyl by 2000 *[Paris Radio]* 14
Russia: Kuchma: Moscow Nuclear Summit Will Help Shut Chernobyl *[INTERFAX]* 14
Russia: Kuchma Proposes G-7 Sign Agreements on Chernobyl Closure *[UNIAN]* 14
Russia: Japan To Help Russia Build Nuclear Storage Facilities *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Russia: G-7 Summit Discusses NATO Expansion, Middle East Peace *[Moscow NTV]* 15
Russia: Measures Approved To Counter Nuclear Material Smuggling *[INTERFAX]* 16
Russia: G-7 Summit Favors Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban *[INTERFAX]* 16
Russia: Kohl: Nuclear-Free Zone in Europe Unlikely in Near Future *[INTERFAX]* 16

Russia: Yeltsin Says Summit Countries Ready To Ban Nuclear Testing *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Russia: Yeltsin Discusses Nuclear Disposal at News Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Russia: Yeltsin 'Not Satisfied' With Pace of G-7 Change To G-8 *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Russia: Yeltsin: Summit Confirms Russia's Status of Great Power *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Russia: Yeltsin Comments on End of Nuclear Summit *[Radio Rossii]* 18
Russia: Yeltsin To Tell China About Results of Nuclear Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Russia: 'Text' of G-8 Statement on Ukraine *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Russia: 'Text' of Moscow Summit Statement on Nuclear Test Ban *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Russia: Nuclear Summit Hails Russian Political, Economic Reforms *[INTERFAX]* 19
Russia: 'Vremya' Highlights Differences at G-7 Summit *[Moscow ORT]* 19
Russia: Moscow Nuclear Summit Yields 'No Sensational Results' *[Moscow NTV]* 20
Russia: Kohl Satisfied With Results of Nuclear Security Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Russia: Hashimoto: 'Friendly Relations' Established With Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Russia: Italian Premier on Russia's Concern Over NATO Expansion *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Russia: ITAR-TASS: Clinton Opposes Nuclear Deal With Iran 22
Russia: President Clinton Pledges Support for Russian Reforms *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Russia: Clinton Tours Kremlin, Meets With Politicians *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Russia: Clinton Meets Zyuganov, Yavlinskiy, Other Politicians *[Moscow 2x2 TV]* 23
Russia: Politicians Remark on Meeting With Clinton *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Russia: Yeltsin: Clinton 'Promised' No Immediate NATO Expansion *[INTERFAX]* 24
Russia: Clinton Backs Political Settlement in Chechnya *[INTERFAX]* 25
Russia: Summit: Yeltsin Opening Remarks at 21 Apr News Conference *[Moscow ORT]* 25
Russia: Clinton: U.S. Wants Russia Strong, Stable, Open *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Russia: Yeltsin: Nuclear Test Ban Treaty To Be Signed This Year *[INTERFAX]* 25
Russia: Yeltsin Tells Clinton New Gold Deposit Found in Siberia *[Moscow Radio]* 25
Russia: Clinton, Yeltsin Discuss Disarmament, CFE Treaty *[INTERFAX]* 26
Russia: Yeltsin, Clinton Summit News Conference Detailed *[INTERFAX]* 26
Russia: President Clinton Takes Leave of Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 27

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Russia: Chubays Attacks Zyuganov's Performance at Clinton Reception *[Moscow RTV]* 28
Russia: TV Satire Program Features Clinton *[FBIS Report]* 28
Russia: Zhirinovskiy on Crime, Economy, Other Issues *[Moscow RTV]* 28
Russia: Communists Preach 'Civil War Philosophy' *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 18 Apr]* 29
Russia: Luzhkov on Critical Attitude to Reforms *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 7-14 Apr]* 31
Russia: Grachev Resignation Offer to Duma Discussed *[Moscow ORT]* 34

Military Issues

Russia: Grachev: Moscow To Boost Conscription Campaign *[ITAR-TASS]* 35

Federal Assembly

Russia: Duma Urges Yeltsin To Set Up Armed Forces Controlling Body *[INTERFAX]* 35
Russia: Duma To Discuss Yeltsin Initiatives on Chechen Settlement *[INTERFAX]* 35
Russia: Duma Resolution on Ambush; Zhirinovskiy Questions Grachev *[Moscow Radio]* 36
Russia: Duma Summons Grachev, Kulikov to 19 Apr Session *[Radio Rossii]* 37
Russia: Deputies Call For Legal Action Over Chechen Killings *[INTERFAX]* 37
Russia: Grachev Admits Military Mistakes in Chechen Ambush *[ITAR-TASS]* 37

Regional Affairs

Russia: Duma Investigation Seeks 'Those Responsible' for Chechen Deaths *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 Apr]* 38

Russia: Grachev 'Ready To Resign' if Blamed for Chechen Ambush *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Russia: Grachev Appeals for 'Understanding' Over Chechen Tragedy *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Russia: Grachev: Troops Not Told of Yeltsin Peace Order Until 6 Apr *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Russia: Grachev Says Yeltsin's Peace Plan Increases Losses in Chechnya *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Russia: Grachev Says Chechen Peace Plan Allows Rebels To Regroup *[INTERFAX]* 39
Russia: Yeltsin Announces Contact With Chechen Separatists *[INTERFAX]* 40
Russia: Tatar President Hails Clinton's Efforts To Free Plane Crew *[INTERFAX]* 40

Economic Issues

Russia: Dubinin Denies IMF To Freeze Funds After U.S. Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Russia: Moscow Seen Planning More Steps To Curtail Food Imports *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 19 Apr]* 41

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Ukraine: President Kuchma Meets Canadian Premier at Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Ukraine: Kuchma Dissatisfied With Economic Cooperation With Canada *[UNIAN]* 42
Ukraine: Kuchma Confirms One of Chernobyl's Two Reactors To Close *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Ukraine: Kuchma Urges Confirmation of Chernobyl Aid Commitment *[INTERFAX]* 42
Ukraine: Joint Ukrainian-Russian-Belarusian Appeal on Chernobyl *[INTERFAX]* 43
Ukraine: UN Official Reassures Victims on Chernobyl Aid *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Ukraine: Kiev Satisfied With G-7 Summit Discussion on Chernobyl *[INTERFAX]* 44
Ukraine: Results of British Prime Minister's Visit Reviewed *[Kiev TV]* 44
Ukraine: Kiev Says NATO Enlargement Should be 'Long-Lasting Process' *[INTERFAX]* 45
Ukraine: Shmarov Says Ukraine Will Not Join 'Anti-NATO' Bloc *[INTERFAX]* 45
Ukraine: Kiev, Moscow Officials Cited on Treaty, Yeltsin Visit *[POST-POSTUP 11 Apr]* 46
Ukraine: Delegation Concludes Official Visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina *[UNIAR]* 47

National Affairs

Ukraine: President Briefs Officials on G-7 Moscow Summit *[UNIAN]* 47
Ukraine: Roundtable on Chernobyl Aftermath Planned for 21 Apr *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
Ukraine: NTV Reports on 'Mutants' in Chernobyl Zone *[Moscow NTV]* 48
Ukraine: Radiation Background Above Normal in One Third of Ukraine *[INTERFAX]* 49

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Belarus: Lukashenka Sums Up Tour of Chernobyl-Affected Regions *[Minsk Radio]* 50
Belarus: Lukashenka Criticizes Evacuation of Chernobyl Residents *[INTERFAX]* 50
Belarus: Sharetski Seen as Moscow's 'Counterbalance' to Lukashenka *[SVABODA 17 Apr]* ... 50
Belarus: Lukashenka Discusses Integration With Kazakh Official *[ITAR-TASS]* 51

Moldova

Moldova: Parliament Speaker Says Moldova Must Seek Neutral Status *[INTERFAX]* 51
Moldova: Weekly Sees Growing Economic Dependence on Russia *[BASAPRESS]* 52

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan: Uygurs Seek Independent East Turkestan *[UYGHUR AVAZI 6 Apr]* 54

Kazakhstan: Prosecutor Calls For Ban on Kazakh Communist Party *[ITAR-TASS]* 55

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan: Details of Central Asia, Caucasus Freight Route *[TURKMEN PRESS]* 56

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan: President Departs for France on Official Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Uzbekistan: Police Chief Comments on Combating Drugs, Kidnapping *[NARODNAYA SLOVO 18 Apr]* 56

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Armenia: Karabakh MP Meets Iranian Information Ministry Official *[ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN]* 58
Armenia: OSCE Envoy Says Peacekeeping Force for Karabakh Considered *[ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN]* 58
Armenia: Turkish President's Proposal for Karabakh Settlement Cited *[ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN]* 58
Armenia: President Meets Russian Cooperation Minister for CIS *[NOYAN TAPAN]* 58

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: President Counts on Further Relations With China *[INTERFAX]* 58
Azerbaijan: Aliyev: Ex-Defense Minister Gaziyev To Be Treated Fairly *[Moscow NTV]* 59
Azerbaijan: Musavat Party Secretary Hajiyev Detained *[TURAN]* 60

Russia: G-7 Heads Seen Coming to Moscow To 'Campaign' for Yeltsin

MK1904110196 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 19 Apr 96 p 2

['S.A.'-signed report under the "Summit" rubric: "The Cream of the World Elite To Campaign for Yeltsin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Communists are lying down under Yeltsin. This conclusion can be drawn from the Zyuganovites' declared stance on the nuclear safety summit due to open in Moscow today. The Communist Party's international affairs experts agree with its agenda and even with the hypothetical obligations Yeltsin could assume with regard to the West as a result of the summit. The only fear is that under pressure from his friend Bill, B.N. [Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin] could accept a plan for establishing U.S. control over the Russian nuclear program.

These fears appear to be misplaced. What promises to be yet another routine meeting in terms of its practical results is, on the contrary, designed to help the Russian president score yet more electoral points. The most controversial subjects where Moscow has made one lapse after another, such as nuclear smuggling, are included on the agenda. [as published] Officially, the meeting will open at 1000 on Saturday, and the final documents are to be signed at 1600. As far as we know, the preliminary work of expert groups has not achieved any breakthroughs.

Global democratic solidarity is wonderful. But it would be unwise not to try to gain something for oneself from the currently weak position of the summit's host. Prime Minister Hashimoto has suddenly made it clear that, despite initial plans, his rendezvous with B.N. will go beyond dry protocol and that he will in effect endorse Yeltsin's candidacy in the elections. Japan asks little in exchange — what Moscow needs to do is just to reaffirm its own obligations under the Tokyo declaration of 1993 (that is, in the long run to give up half the contested Kuril Islands). Everyone is arriving with his own ammunition. Clinton's enemies in the Pentagon have leaked information about the continuing construction of a mammoth defense facility in the Urals. Germany has brought up yet another "Russian track" in smuggling via Georgia and Turkey. Norway, which is not represented at the meeting, is pressing the case of Captain Nikitin on behalf of international environmentalists.

In the event of absolutely unforeseen complications, Moscow too has a surprise in store. A list of dirty tricks played by the "strategic partners" to the detriment of domestic industrial interests abroad was compiled with the help of the Atomic Energy Ministry. It includes the refusal to give Russia access to the DPRK's nuclear disarmament at the West's expense, impediments in the construction of facilities in Iran and Cuba, and lots of other things. What are you doing, you schmucks [gady]? At the moment, the fate of democracy in Russia is at stake, and you are depriving us of our key export earnings! This is the best possible option for Yeltsin from the electoral point of view. But it is not feasible as far as long-term relations with the West are concerned.

As for the main characters, they will be in for a pleasant follow-up. Boris and Bill will spend the following 12 hours at Yeltsin's countryside hunting residence. Possibly, this might be their last meeting in their present capacity.

Russia: Yeltsin: Summit Not Staged To Win Polls

LD2104133396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1324 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin denied that an eight-nation nuclear safety summit which ended in Moscow on Sunday had been meant to help him win June 16 polls.

Speaking at Sunday's press conference which involved U.S. President Bill Clinton as co-speaker, Yeltsin said that the two presidents had pledged nothing to each other in connection with the forthcoming elections both in Russia and the United States.

"Those mass media reports that the eight-nation summit had been intentionally scheduled for April to help the Russian President in the campaign are not true to fact," Yeltsin told the press.

"The meeting had been planned long ahead, and it was announced already in Halifax," Yeltsin said. "No pledges, the more so of material sort, as to presidential elections both in Russia and the United States, have been given by the presidents. The two presidents are open and frank there. That's why one should not suspect of something (like that) such authoritative gatherings as the G-8 and the meeting of the presidents of two great nations."

"Our relations with the President of the United States grow better with every meeting. None of the meetings has been futile. Each of them brought some gains to both countries and their peoples," Yeltsin said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russia: Clinton Discusses June Polls With Russian Politicians

LD2104165096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1613 GMT 21 Apr 96

[By Aleksandr Pakhomov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Itar-Tass) — U.S. President Bill Clinton met a group of Russia's prominent politicians at the U.S. ambassador's residence on Sunday to discuss the possible outcome of the June 16 presidential election in Russia.

The meeting was attended by leader of the reformist block Yabloko Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, State Duma (lower house) member Aleksandr Lebed, State Duma speaker Gennadiy Seleznev, Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, governor of the Nizhniy Novgorod region Boris Nemtsov, governor of the Sverdlovsk region Eduard Rossel, deputy State Duma speaker Svetlana Goryacheva, and former Russian Vice-Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays.

Yavlinskiy, Zyuganov and Lebed are President Boris Yeltsin's rivals in the June 16 poll.

The list of recommended guests was compiled by U.S. Ambassador to Moscow Thomas Pickering, sources in the embassy told Tass.

Ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy was not on the list.

Russia is a multiparty democracy, said Clinton as early as Saturday explaining his desire to meet Russian politicians, including opposition ones.

He said he is eager to meet opposition politicians during all of his foreign trips, as all U.S. presidents have followed such a policy.

Clinton had a similar meeting with Russian politicians during his Moscow visit in 1995.

Russia: INTERFAX-AiF: NATO Expansion Will Help Communist Victory

LD2004181696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1233 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Apr 20 (Interfax) — In conditions of approximate parity between the reformist and nationalist-communist forces in Russia on the eve of presidential elections NATO expansion eastward may secure victory for the nationalist-communist bloc, says the weekly Interfax-AiF [ARGUMENTY i FAKTY] in its Monday's edition.

The prospects for developing NATO give rise to fear, dissatisfaction with the government's policy and growing anti-western sentiment in Russia, and strengthen the positions of nationalists, who are oriented to a tough confrontation with the West and Russia's self-isolation, the weekly says.

"Russia's sliding into the property and inflation chaos of the communist rule makes some sense for the West, since it will undermine the country's competitiveness and throw it into the 'third world' forever," the weekly says. However, if democracy is defeated in Russia, this will destabilize the entire world order, the weekly points out. The losses resulting from this will be incompatible with the short-term benefits the interested parties intend to obtain, when Russia turns into an adversary.

According to the weekly, the question of when Hungary, Czechia and Slovakia are admitted to NATO must remain open for the time being on condition that the countries in question will be admitted to NATO without delay, if the nationalist and communist forces win in Russia.

Russia: Yeltsin 'Convinced' of Victory in June Elections

LD2104165296 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 21 Apr 96

[From the "Segodnya" program by announcer Vladimir Kara-Murza]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kara-Murza] Bilateral talks between the presidents of Russia and the United States have ended in the Kremlin.

In a conversation that lasted half an hour longer than planned, the most acute international problems were discussed.

The talks between Yeltsin and Clinton lasted more than five hours in all, first of all one-to-one, and then in the presence of members of the delegation.

To all appearances, at the last meeting before the June elections, both presidents strove to discuss as many questions as possible.

Aleksandr Zinenko has the details:

[Zinenko] Before the talks started, Boris Yeltsin was asked how he felt about the meeting between Bill Clinton and Gennadiy Zyuganov. The Russian president said he was not against it, but on one condition:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Provided Zyuganov is accompanied by others and not somewhere in a room in secret whispering into each other's ear. [laughter] Be seated! [end recording]

Meanwhile, today and in complete seriousness, Yeltsin and Clinton denied claims voiced in Moscow and in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

western capitals that the leaders of the G-8 had been invited to the Kremlin in order to help Boris Yeltsin in his pre-election campaign.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] I would like to say to those in the mass media who are already making up stories about how the G-8 planned to meet in April specially to help President Yeltsin — that's not so. That was planned a long time beforehand and it was announced back in Halifax. And we did not make any commitments to each other, moreover material commitments, in connection with the elections. There are elections in both Russia, and in the United States in November. [end recording]

At the joint news conference, Bill Clinton stated that relations between Washington and Moscow would be determined in many ways by the results of the elections in Russia. In reply to the question what would these relations be like if the communists came to power in Russia, Boris Yeltsin replied briefly:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] I don't need to think about that question because I am convinced that I will win. [end recording]

Bill Clinton preferred not to say anything about his election chances. The meeting between Yeltsin and Clinton lasted almost five hours. The presidents naturally found the time for such a painful question for Russia as the expansion of NATO. Boris Yeltsin said that Clinton had promised him that the expansion of NATO would not be forced for a while, at the request of Russia. At the same time, the U.S. President said that his fundamental position toward the expansion of the NATO alliance had not changed.

After the news conference, despite the rain, Yeltsin and Clinton took a walk around the Kremlin.

The tenth meeting between the presidents of Russia and the United States was a traditional one in many ways. As always they addressed each other by first name and made compliments to each other.

"A great trip! A splendid summit!" the U.S. President said in farewell to Boris Yeltsin.

[Kara-Murza] Immediately after the walk around the Kremlin, President Clinton set off for Spaso House, the residence of the U.S. ambassador in Moscow. Political figures, regarded as leading lights by the West, were also invited there.

Gennadiy Zyuganov is also among those invited. News about his meeting with Bill Clinton evoked much discussion the day before. Zyuganov got a place at the opposite end of the table from the U.S. President.

The leader of the Russian communists is live in the "Itogi" studio this evening. [video shows Spaso House, Clinton seated at table, Gennadiy Seleznev, Anatoliy Chubays to either side of him, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy next to Seleznev; Sergey Karaganov, member of presidential council directly opposite Clinton, Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov to right of Karaganov, Gennadiy Zyuganov to right of Luzhkov]

Russia: Zyuganov Wants No Link Between Summit, Russian Situation

LD1904151096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1429 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 19 (Itar-Tass) — Gennadiy Zyuganov, Russian presidential candidate and the leader of the Communist Party of Russia, expressed the wish that the Moscow summit on nuclear safety discuss these problems "without the linkage to the political situation in Russia."

"Although the summit on nuclear safety has been planned long ago, some view it as the West's backing for Boris Yeltsin, while others regard it as an attempt to bring pressure on Russia," Zyuganov said. The leader of Communists believes the existing problems of nuclear threat can be used by the West "for interference in Russia's internal affairs." Nevertheless, he expressed the hope that the Moscow summit "will promote nuclear security and will discuss the existing problems in their practical, technological aspect."

Zyuganov said he had just met with British Prime Minister John Major and is going to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton. He said he will draw conclusions about the results of these meetings.

Zyuganov said that the forming of a popular-patriotic bloc supporting him as the presidential candidate had already been completed. The last stage, the signing of the agreement on the support of his candidature by more than one hundred generals, will take place on Saturday.

Zyuganov said that during the second stage of the election campaign a "congress of hero cities of the USSR" will be held in St. Petersburg late next week.

Valentin Kuptsov, the head of the Zyuganov campaign centre, said the centre works according to plan. Several working groups have been formed in its framework, including the programming group which is working out the election programme of the candidate, the group of work with territories, monitoring plans of Zyuganov's trips, the canvassing group and the group for financing. Kuptsov said that one billion roubles was collected to the fund of the election campaign from natural persons and from a few legal persons. Eight hundred million was already spent on canvassing.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kuptsov again refuted a report of some media about differences within the leadership of the Communist Party and in Zyuganov's canvassing centre and dismissed them as "usual lies and slander." The political platform of the presidential candidate was endorsed by the absolute majority, he said. The work on the economic platform will shortly be completed, and a programme for a government of popular confidence will also be drawn up.

Russia: Zyuganov Leads Yeltsin in Poll — 25 to 21 Percent

LD2204115796 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This is the conclusion reached by the experts of the public opinion foundation that polled Russia's citizens in April: If the presidential elections were held today, 25 percent of the electorate would vote for Gennadiy Zyuganov and 21 percent for Boris Yeltsin. Thus, the Communist leader has slightly increased his lead on the president. Grigoriy Yavlinskiy ranks third, with 9 percent. He is followed by Aleksandr Lebed and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy — 6 percent of Russia's citizens are prepared to vote for each of them. Three percent of the Russian electorate is prepared to vote for Svyatoslav Fedorov.

Russia: St. Petersburg Poll Shows Yeltsin Gaining Ground

MM2204112796 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 96

[Report by Sergey Alekhin under the "Political Thermometer" rubric: "St. Petersburg: For Whom the White Nights [late June in St. Petersburg, when the nights are not fully dark] Will Be a Black Day" — from the "Home and Homeland" section dated 20-26 April, p ii]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the results published in St. Petersburg of a poll conducted at the beginning of April by the Independent Analysis Center in the city on the Neva, more than 70 percent of Petersburgers intend to take part in the presidential election. And although the favorites have already emerged, the real struggle for the votes of St. Petersburg's voters still lies ahead.

Compared with January, support for the incumbent president of Russia in St. Petersburg has increased considerably, and today totals 33 percent of all the votes. The gap between Yeltsin and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, who was once popular in the northern capital, has also increased sharply. Whereas at the end of last year the "Yabloko" leader was outstripping the country's present leader and was the democratic alternative to him, in only a few months Yeltsin has broken away significantly from his chief rival in St. Petersburg, in spite of the fact that Yavlinskiy is a regular visitor to the banks of the Neva.

Obviously the St. Petersburg electorate is changing its sympathies. After Yeltsin and Yavlinskiy, the Petersburgers intend to give their votes to Zyuganov, Lebed, Svyatoslav Fedorov, and Zhirinovskiy, and only 1 percent of the votes of all St. Petersburg's voters belong to Gorbachev, ex-president of the USSR. St. Petersburg, of course, is not Russia, but if the same trends exist, even partially, in other regions, victory for the incumbent president can be counted on.

How can this change in the Petersburgers' sympathies be explained? Many local political scientists are seeking the answer to that question today. In their opinion, it is most likely due to the fact that only Yeltsin is capable of ensuring stability and order in present-day conditions; victory for the other candidates would lead to unpredictable consequences. And a significant proportion of Petersburgers, having grown accustomed to a tranquil and stable life, naturally do not even want to think about any "unpredictable" consequences.

In St. Petersburg the presidential election campaign is gathering speed: The St. Petersburg Boris Yeltsin support staff, formed by the "Association in Defense of Freedom and the Republic," is already in operation, and includes directors of major industrial enterprises, personalities in science and culture, and Yeltsin's agents. This staff will be the center around which forces supporting the incumbent president will rally on the banks of the Neva.

St. Petersburg sociologists believe that an analysis of the candidates' ratings in various social democratic groups indicates fairly firmly that as of today the majority of St. Petersburg voters regard a Yeltsin victory as the "lesser evil." Whereas at the end of last year many groups had two candidates, now the incumbent president is the leader in all of them without exception. Both his potential opponents on the left, who only a month ago were inclined to vote communist, and his opponents on the right, who formerly intended to vote for Yavlinskiy, are moving in this direction at approximately equal speed.

According to the polls carried out in St. Petersburg, about 30 percent of the city's inhabitants have not yet made up their minds who to vote for. Of course, they have not forgotten their right to say "no" to all unwanted candidates, but this is the section of St. Petersburg's population which will evidently be the prime target for the efforts of the council of the movement formed in St. Petersburg, the "Association in Defense of Freedom and the Republic."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 20 Apr

LD2004061696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0611 GMT 20 Apr 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 20 (ITAR-TASS) — Newspapers focus their attention today on the summit of The Eight on nuclear security, which opens in Moscow today.

Rossiiskie Vesti carries an article by Assistant to the Russian President for Nuclear Security Yuri Baturin. He stresses that the main purpose of the Moscow summit is "to preserve nuclear energy as energy for the future, along with improving its efficiency and safety, and to call the attention to the problem of fissionable materials."

Izvestiya believes that at the summit leaders of The Seven are eager to do all they can for making Yeltsin look like a a "star" in the eyes of millions of his compatriots. "However, even if the summit turns out to be an absolute success for the Russian leaders from a political point of view, one should hardly expect more financial donations from the West," the newspaper writes.

Komsomolskaya Pravda publishes a blits-interview with British Prime Minister John Major. Responding to the question about what he expects from the elections in Russia, he said that everybody should gain from it. In his opinion, the reforms and changes should bring profits to those who have not received them so far.

Izvestiya writes about a tempestuous reaction of the State Duma to the developments in Chechnya, where a truck column of the Moscow Military District was practically wiped out on the night of April 16. According to Izvestiya military observer Viktor Litovkin, "the tragic results of the operation show that the military leaders fully disregard the need for ensuring the safety of the military personnel, or, perhaps, they are just unable to do so."

First Vice Premier of the Russian government Oleg Soskovets writes in Rossiiskaya Gazeta about the mistakes made in the process of privatization. "The most serious mistake, in my opinion, is the sale of industrial enterprises at a price, fixed long ago, without revising it. This is why some enterprises were sold at a price, comparable with that of a new large flat. The second mistake is the creation of closed joint-stock companies on the basis of privatized enterprises, although they were built on the money coming from the national reserves. The third mistake is the failure to create an effective mechanism of managing state property," Soskovets writes.

Rossiiskie Vesti carries an interview with Abdullah Mikitayev, Head of the Department for Citizenship under the Administration of the Russian President, in which he comments on the presidential decree about the creation of a fund for supporting our compatriots abroad. What is means by the decree is, in the first place, the support for 25 million Russians living in the former USSR republics outside Russia, who are facing a lot of serious problems.

Rossiiskie Vesti publishes on two pages the materials of a round- table conference on problems of the development of higher education in Russia. Rector of Moscow University Viktor Sadovnichiy, as well as rectors of higher educational establishments from Novosibirsk, Omsk, Rostov-on-Don and other Russian cities took part in the discussion.

Krasnaya Zvezda publishes fragments from a report of Nikolay Yegorov, Chief of Staff of the Russian President, at a meeting with top-ranking officials of the Defence Ministry under the headline "Great Russian Needs Strong Army."

Pravda carries a large article, devoted to the birth anniversary of Lenin, which is due on April 22. "Today, when a perceptible shift in public opinion is taking place, a new analysis of his heritage is of special importance," the newspaper writes.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russia: Clinton Combines Summit With Official Visit

LD1904174996 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 19 Apr 96

[Report over video by correspondent Sergey Korolev; from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] U.S. President Clinton decided to combine his attendance at the nuclear security forum with an official visit to Russia. According to information from diplomatic sources, President Yeltsin will discuss with Bill Clinton, among others, issues relating to control of arms and disarmament. Their meeting is scheduled for Sunday. This is the U.S. president's second day in Russia.

[Korolev] [video shows Clinton in St. Petersburg] The 10th meeting between the Russian and U.S. presidents has been preceded by Bill Clinton's stop-over in St. Petersburg. [passage omitted]

From Russia, the president appealed to his fellow citizens and to the families of the dead, expressing condolences over the anniversary of the Oklahoma City explosion. Clinton also mentioned the victims of the conflict in Lebanon between the Israeli army and the Hizballah armed formations, voicing the hope that there will be a cease-fire, on both sides.

We already know that both Clinton and Yeltsin have sent the heads of their Foreign Ministries to the Middle East. Neither Yevgeniy Primakov nor Warren Christopher will be present at the G-8 summit, nor at the Yeltsin-Clinton talks, which are scheduled for Sunday — demonstrating that a settlement of the Middle East conflict is a common problem for the two presidents. For Clinton, because Israel is a close ally; and for Yeltsin, because Russia's role in this region is evidence of its weight in world policy.

Properly speaking, there are no disagreements between the two presidents on nuclear security, since these are being discussed in the Gore-Chernomyrdin commission. In addition, the G-7 does not plan to take on any fresh financial guarantees, and one can consider that Yeltsin has already received political guarantees — when the aircraft carrying the presidents and prime ministers landed in Moscow.

So, what will most likely be discussed behind closed doors at the bilateral meeting on Sunday is Yeltsin's proposal — an unexpected one for Clinton — to deploy nuclear weapons only on one's own territory. That is, the continuing and sore issue of NATO expansion.

[NTV Washington correspondent Petr Orlov, shown in front of unidentified Moscow building] The United States initial reaction was essentially negative, but at an unofficial level. Officially, however, Washington asserted even before that one of the main topics of the 10th Clinton-Yeltsin summit will be the prospects for Russo- U.S. relations in the 21st century — on the assumption that both leaders will take part not only in planning them, but also in implementing them.

Russia: Yeltsin Meets With Canada's Chretien, Other G-7 Leaders

MM2204080896 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Apr 96 Saturday Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under the "President" rubric: "Meetings in the Kremlin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's meeting in the Kremlin with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien Friday [19 April] morning opened a series of meetings between the Russian head of state and the leaders of the G-7 countries who have come to the Moscow summit on nuclear safety.

According to the preliminary schedule of bilateral meetings, six would be held Friday.

Greeting the Canadian premier, Boris Yeltsin rated highly the prospects for the development of bilateral relations between Russia and Canada. He emphasized that the potential of these relations is great both in the trade sphere and in the sphere of joint efforts to protect the environment.

Responding to a retort from his guest, B. Yeltsin gave this assessment of the present situation in Russia: "Things are hard, but we are fighting." In response to J. Chretien's remark that Yeltsin was in excellent physical form, the president commented: "I have to be in good physical form to hold the meeting of the 'big eight.'"

Five minutes after the Canadian premier left the Kremlin, the Russian head of state commenced a meeting with Ryutaro Hashimoto, head of the Japanese Government.

Participating in it on the Russian side are Yevgeniy Primakov, Russian Federation minister of foreign affairs, and Dmitriy Ryurikov, the president's assistant on international issues.

Our information: On the same day Yeltsin met with French President J. Chirac; J. Santer, president of the Commission of the European Communities; British Prime Minister J. Major; and FRG Chancellor H. Kohl.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russia: Yeltsin Receives EU Commission President Prior to G-7 Summit

LD1904143796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1402 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 19 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a meeting on Friday with President of the European Commission Jacques Santer who arrived in Moscow to attend the nuclear security summit.

Russia and the European Union, the partners with huge political and economic potential are called upon to make the decisive contribution to the construction of new Europe free from barriers and divides and orienting at the further economic closeness and advanced partnership, it was said at the meeting between Yeltsin and Santer on Friday.

A situation shaping in Europe was discussed during an exchange of opinions on a broad range of questions.

The need for stepping up the efficiency of bilateral cooperation was emphasised at the meeting. The importance of an early ratification of the Agreement on partnership and cooperation was noted. This document of major importance will help place relations between Russia and the EU on a new level, said the press report.

Russia: Yeltsin Meets With Chirac, Kohl Prior to G-7 Summit

LD1904142396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1406 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 19 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin met French leader Jacques Chirac on Friday who co-chairs the Moscow nuclear security summit jointly with the Russian president.

The Russian president said that "the preparations for the summit ended successfully."

"I welcome you to Moscow to attend a conference of the 'eight' on problems of nuclear security which are of interest to the whole world," Yeltsin said, greeting the French president. "As the co-chairmen, we have both worked hard jointly with experts to prepare the summit and I believe that the preparations were successful and good documents were prepared," Yeltsin said.

Today, President Yeltsin met German Chancellor Helmut Kohl who arrived in Moscow to attend the summit, the presidential press service said. "Taking into account Kohl's interest, Boris Yeltsin informed the head of the German government about the situation which developed in Russia in the run-up to the presidential elections and shared his impressions of his tour of Russian regions and meetings with the electorate."

At the Chancellor's request Yeltsin touched upon new elements in the process of integration on the territory of the CIS, the press service said.

"Helmut Kohl said that he was as much interested in the success of reforms carried out in Russia as before and regards Boris Yeltsin a reliable guarantor of further progress of reforms," the press service said. "The sides had a brief exchange of opinions on the present and future of Russo-German relations and the situation on the European continent. When discussing the problem of NATO's expansion the two presidents expressed a unanimous opinion that the next few months should be spent in search for solutions which would take into account both Russia's interests and the interests of countries which seek membership in the alliance," the press service said.

"Both leaders came out for the creation of such architecture in Europe which would rule out the appearance of new demarcation lines on the continent," the press service said.

"Confidence was expressed that the Moscow summit of the 'eight' would yield tangible results in the cause of ensuring global nuclear security," the press service said.

Russia: France Favors Russia's Admission to G-7

LD1904190396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1809 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 19 (Interfax) — France believes that there is every reason to transform the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations into a Group of Eight by admitting Russia as member, French presidential spokeswoman Catherine Colonna said at a briefing in Moscow tonight.

France is satisfied with the achievements regarding Russia's economic development, she said. Russia's movement along the path of reforms and its rapprochement with the Group of Seven should be "reciprocal," Colonna said.

Russian presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev said there were no obstacles to the rapprochement between the Group of Seven and Russia.

The Russian and French presidents, Boris Yeltsin and Jacques Chirac, paid much attention to the issues of disarmament and a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests during their meeting in the Kremlin, Colonna said. Paris favors a "zero option" on this problem: full cessation of tests by all nuclear powers, she said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Yeltsin said at the meeting that he intended to decide on "the future of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty promptly," according to Colonna. She quoted Yeltsin as saying that the "zero option" will "give a good opportunity to achieve progress in this area."

None of the countries at the Moscow summit opposes the conclusion of such a treaty, Medvedev said.

Regarding NATO expansion eastward, Chirac said at the meeting with Yeltsin that during the development of the European Union it is necessary to take into consideration that "Russia is also an unalienable part of the European security system," according to Colonna. "That is why Russia's interests must be taken into consideration," Colonna quoted Chirac as saying.

The North Atlantic alliance has embarked on the path of renovation, Colonna said. "We take into consideration the new situation in Central and East Europe," she said. "We stand for NATO enlargement, but the pace of this process should be moderate and it should take place step by step," Colonna said.

Russia: Yeltsin Meets Hashimoto Prior to Summit

LD1904190196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Andrey Varlamov and Andrey Kirillov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Apr — The Japanese side is "satisfied on the whole" with the results of the meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto held today within the framework of the Moscow security summit. There was no sign during the talks of a desire on either side to turn the clock back, ITAR-TASS has been told in an exclusive interview by Hiroshi Hashimoto, Japanese Foreign Ministry's press secretary.

According to Hiroshi Hashimoto, Boris Yeltsin said it was necessary to build good-neighborly relations on a realistic basis. For his part, the Japanese prime minister emphasized that the Tokyo Declaration, signed in 1993, provided the basis of relations between the two countries. He called for ever greater mutual understanding by broadening the scope of the dialogue in keeping with the development of ties.

Since the Russian side confirmed its adherence to the Tokyo Declaration, the Japanese side did not, on this occasion, raise the territorial issue in any specific form, said Hiroshi Hashimoto.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry's press secretary said that Boris Yeltsin and Ryutaro Hashimoto had decided to exchange messages of greetings in October this year to mark the 40th anniversary of normalization of relations between the two countries.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Receives Major Prior to Summit

LD1904150196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1430 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] MOSCOW, 19 Apr (ITAR-TASS) — The Moscow summit on nuclear security is convincing evidence that considerable progress has been achieved in cooperation between Russia and the G-7. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said this today when he met with British Prime Minister John Major at the seat of the Russian Government. Major is in Moscow to take part in the summit.

Viktor Konnov, Chernomyrdin's press secretary, quoted the chairman of the Russian Government as saying that "the joint, intensive work to prepare the Moscow summit was an important stage in turning the G-7 into G-8."

The sides confirmed that trade and industrial cooperation between Russia and Great Britain has a potential which has not yet been fully used. "Additional joint efforts are obviously needed to revive the work of the intergovernmental Russian-British committee for trade and investment," the Russian prime minister said. He mentioned that the Russian Government has already approved the use of guaranteed British loans worth $486.5 million. These funds will be spent on upgrading the Moscow telephone network, manufacturing medical equipment, street lamps, baby food, and on delivering turbines for the Gazprom and equipment for the Obpolimer joint-stock society.

For his part, British Prime Minister John Major promised to allocate in 1996 an additional 50 million pounds sterling from the know-how fund of the British Government which was set up in the beginning of the 1990s to promote reforms in Eastern Europe.

Russia: Medvedev Statement on Test Ban Treaty, Nuclear Security

LD1904155396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1511 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Apr (ITAR-TASS) — The treaty on a comprehensive nuclear test ban, preparation of which is entering the decisive phase, "will be a powerful factor in preventing the proliferation and upgrading of nuclear weapons," according to a statement by Sergey Medvedev, the Russian president's

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

press secretary, which was released today ahead of this evening's opening of the G-8 nuclear summit.

"Russia is committed to banning all test explosions of nuclear weapons and any other nuclear explosions of any type," Medvedev's statement says.

It emphasizes that "our starting point is that Russia and the other nuclear powers bear particular responsibility for the security of their nuclear arsenals, which extends to the comprehensive and total destruction of nuclear weapons." Within the terms of the treaty, Medvedev says, Russia "will be obliged to carry out work to maintain its nuclear weaponry, without contravening the ban that the future treaty lays down." To this end, a number of measures will be taken and these are detailed in the press secretary's statement.

"At the same time," the statement continues, "I state that Russia, if its supreme interests come under threat, will exercise its right to withdraw from the treaty in order to carry out any tests that might be required if there is no other way of confirming a high degree of confidence in the safety or reliability of any of the key types of Russian nuclear weapon."

The press secretary emphasized that Russia calls on all those involved in the negotiations on preparing a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty "to do all they can to complete these negotiations no later than in September 1996."

Russia: Zyuganov Wants G-8 Conference To Be Useful for Russia

LD1904170396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1513 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 19 (Interfax) — Communist Party of Russia leader and presidential nominee Gennadiy Zyuganov has said he wants the Moscow "Group of Eight" summit on nuclear safety to be useful for Russians.

The Moscow summit is a "long-awaited" forum, Zyuganov said at a news conference in the Russian capital Friday.

Some observers see the summit as "demonstration of support for Russian President Boris Yeltsin," while others consider it "as a kind of pressure," Zyuganov said without elaborating on what he meant.

The summit will use the "specter of radioactive security" to disguise attempts to interfere in Russia's internal affairs, Zyuganov said.

He said he had just met with British Prime Minister John Major and would meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton. Zyuganov said he "will be ready to make conclusions regarding the G-8 summit only after these contacts."

Russia: Kremlin Dinner 'Unofficial Opening' of G-8 Conference

LD1904163796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1556 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Surzhanskiy and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Apr — Dinner in which the leaders of G-8 are taking part began in the Kremlin's Faceted Hall at 1900 Moscow time today. Sergey Medvedev, press secretary to the president of the Russian Federation, described it as an "unofficial opening" of the Moscow summit. The leaders of Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Canada, the United States, Russia, France, and Japan are taking part in the meeting.

Russia: G-8 Leaders' Speeches Emphasize Need for Nuclear Safety

LD1904205396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1745 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Apr — "We have gathered in the Russian capital to find the solution to a problem that concerns all of mankind — the strengthening of nuclear safety." This was the recurring theme of the G-8 leaders' speeches at a dinner in the Kremlin today. The dinner became the unofficial opening of the G-8 Moscow summit and was attended only by the leaders of Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Canada, the United States, Russia, France, and Japan, and by their interpreters.

The diners emphasized in their speeches that the leaders of the G-8 consider it their duty to immediately place nuclear safety on the agenda, ITAR-TASS was told by well-informed Kremlin sources. According to the speakers, the Moscow forum is intended to be the starting point for the G-8 countries and entire world community to pool efforts for a real improvement in nuclear safety.

The summit participants, who on Saturday will gather in the Kremlin for the official program, were said by the sources to have stressed that this means the formation of "a contemporary understanding of nuclear safety." The task is to strengthen nuclear safety, but the main thing, as was stressed during the speeches, is that for the first time a specific action plan is being advanced and priorities defined.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The summit host — President Boris Yeltsin — has not come to the meeting empty-handed, the sources said. In particular, in his speech he assured those present at the dinner that a successful solution to the problem of nuclear safety lay in the harmonious combination of national and international efforts.

The performance of Russia's nuclear power stations has improved markedly of late, Boris Yeltsin said. Russia is actively shaping its national legislation on nuclear issues. Several federal programs have been adopted, he continued, including on the treatment of nuclear waste.

According to the sources, the dinner hosted by the Russian president in honor of the Moscow summit participants proceeded in a warm and relaxed atmosphere. ITAR-TASS has learned that the sumptuous menu in the Faceted Hall represented a broad selection of Russian national cuisine. In particular, the starters included fish pie and caviar, after which the guests were served stuffed pike. Boris Yeltsin also treated his guests to some borscht, which is known to be one of his favorite dishes. The main course was roast wild goose, with ice cream and fruit for dessert.

Russia: Leaders Issue Statement on Lebanon; Major Comments

LD1904220296 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2112 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By Amanda Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, PA News in Moscow]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] World leaders tonight called for an "immediate ceasefire" in the Middle East following the shelling by the Israelis of a UN base in the Lebanon which left 101 people dead.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, Prime Minister John Major, Russian president Boris Yeltsin and other heads of state gathering for a nuclear summit, issued a statement tonight.

It said: "We are seriously concerned by developments in the Middle East. We call for an immediate ceasefire. Only a political solution can provide a lasting settlement of the present crisis and enable the resumption of the peace process.

"We give our full support to the effort undertaken to that end. The populations of Lebanon and Israel must be able to live in peace and security. No-one must put obstacles in the way, nor hinder the move to peace in the whole region."

The pledge came on the eve of talks aimed at improving nuclear safety round the world. But the discussions have been overshadowed by the killings and leaders have been anxious to underline their desire for all parties to get back to the negotiating table.

John Major earlier told reporters: "There is no doubt what we need to seek very speedily is an end to the hostilities. In the first instance it may be temporary while a more firm conclusion is reached.

"It may be difficult to reach a positive conclusion that will last for a long time. But it we can reach an interim settlement, I think that at least it will be a first step and we will try to do that over the next 48 hours."

Russia: G-8 Summit Calls For 'Immediate' Cease-Fire in Mideast

LD1904184696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1757 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Apr — The G-8 summit in Moscow on nuclear safety expressed serious concerns at the developments in the Middle East and called for an immediate cease-fire today. "Only a political solution may bring about a lasting settlement of that crisis and will make it possible to resume the peaceful process," a statement, approved today by the G-8 leaders, says. The text of the statement was received by an ITAR-TASS correspondent at the press service of the Russian president.

The G-8 leaders expressed their full support for efforts taken to achieve this goal. The participants of the summit believe that the peoples of Lebanon and Israel should be given the opportunity to live in peace and safety. "No-one shall obstruct this path or hamper the progress towards peace in the whole region," the document says.

Sources close to the official delegations say the participants of the summit attach special importance to coordinating the efforts of all countries, especially to the cooperation of the French, U.S., Russian, and Italian foreign ministers, who are now in the region, in order to prevent the situation worsening and to bring about an immediate cease-fire.

Russia: Greenpeace Demonstrates on Moscow River Outside Kremlin

LD1904193396 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Apr 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, the day the Moscow meeting on nuclear safety opened, activists of the Greenpeace environmental organization carried out another protest action just by the walls of the Kremlin.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[video shows Greenpeace activists draping huge yellow banner — "No Nuclear Power Stations — No Problem" along the side of a Moscow river cruise boat, building raft of oil drums to bear banner "No More Chernobyl's" "No to Nuclear Reactors" variously in Russian and English, on Moscow River immediately opposite the Kremlin] Near the Sofiyskaya Embankment, they decorated a small river boat with banners bearing the slogans — No More Chernobyl's and No to Nuclear Reactors. On the embankment, activists handed out leaflets calling for unreliable reactors to be shut down. According to the environmentalists, Soviet-made nuclear reactors differ from western ones in that in the event of an accident, they do not cut out, but go out of control.

Russia: Medvedev: Moscow Favors Ban on Nuclear Tests in Any Medium

LD1904185696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1818 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 19 (Itar-Tass) — Russia's attitude to the comprehensive nuclear test ban is set forth in a statement issued by the Russian President's press secretary today.

"The Russian Federation is a consistent advocate of a comprehensive ban of nuclear testing," the presidential press secretary said in the statement.

"October of this year will mark the fifth anniversary of Russia's moratorium on nuclear tests," the statement recalled.

"The treaty on a comprehensive test ban, the drafting of which is now entering the decisive phase, will be a powerful factor in preventing proliferation and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons," the statement said.

"Taking guidance from the desire to facilitate the accelerated preparation of the treaty at the disarmament conference, I declare that Russia sticks to a commitment to ban any test explosions of nuclear weapons and any other nuclear explosions in any medium.

"We proceed from the fact that Russia, just as the other nuclear powers, bears special responsibility for ensuring the safety of its nuclear arsenal up to its full and comprehensive elimination, which remains our ultimate goal," the statement said.

"In this context, when the comprehensive nuclear test ban takes effect, Russia will have to keep working to maintain its nuclear ammunition in a way which will not run counter to the ban imposed by the future treaty. The following measures will be taken for this purpose:

"1. A federal programme of work will be adopted and implemented to ensure the safety and reliability of the Russian nuclear ammunition without conducting nuclear explosions.

"2. The existing Russian nuclear centres will be maintained and programmes in the field of theory and pioneering nuclear technology developments will be implemented to ensure the preservation of our scientific and technological potential and a high level of qualification of the scientists, designers and workers employed at these nuclear centres.

"3. The basic potential will be maintained for the possible resumption of the nuclear testing activity, should a situation emerge in which the Russian Federation would discontinue to be bound by the restrictions of said treaty.

"4. Work will continue to improve our capacity to monitor compliance with the ban on nuclear testing.

"5. Information and analytical means, including intelligence, will be further improved to ensure reliable and timely information about nuclear arsenals, possible secret development of nuclear arms or another activity of other countries pertaining to nuclear weapons.

"At the same time I declare that Russia, should its ultimate interests come under threat, will use its right to withdraw from the treaty in order to conduct all necessary testing which might be needed unless another possibility is found to confirm the high degree of certainty with respect to the safety or reliability of any of the key varieties of the Russian nuclear weapons.

"While supporting the relevant decisions of the 1995 Conference on revision and extension of the term of effect of the Nuclear non- proliferation treaty, we urge all participants in the talks on the preparation of the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty to do all in their power in order to complete these talks not later than September 1996," the Russian President's press secretary said in the statement.

Russia: President Yeltsin Opens Moscow Summit on Nuclear Safety

LD2004063796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0613 GMT 20 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Apr — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has officially opened the Moscow summit on nuclear safety in the Yekaterininskiy Hall of the Great Kremlin Palace (the former Senate building), which is now the residence of the Russian president. Apart from the Russian president, the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

summit is being attended by heads of the seven leading states of the world — British Prime Minister John Major, Italian Prime Minister Lamberto Dini, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Japanese Prime Minister Ryataro Hashimoto, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and French President Jacques Chirac.

The sitting began with a customary photo call taken against the background of the national flags of the participant countries. Together with the heads of the delegations are their "sherpas" — personal representatives. The Russian "sherpa" is Yevgeniy Yasin.

Russia: Moscow Ready To Stand Up to G-7 Pressure on Nuclear Issues

MK2004110296 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Apr 96 p 4

[Report by Aleksandr Koretskiy: "Nuclear Problems Brook No Improvisation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning the nuclear security summit opens in the Kremlin. The past few days were rich in press conferences where the Russian side outlined its positions on the whole spectrum of nuclear problems. Some of the statements evoked major interest. Yesterday, in the Kremlin, Boris Yeltsin had bilateral meetings with all G-7 leaders except for Bill Clinton: 21 April was set aside especially for a meeting with him.

A minor scandal arose over Minsk's complaints that Moscow did not invite Alyaksandr Lukashenka to the summit. Belarusian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Sannikov said that his department has been preparing for the summit for the past few months, but no invitation came. In this context the Belarusian Foreign Ministry expressed its dismay. Petr Kravchenko, head of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Commission on International Affairs, described the situation as "really humiliating," saying that the absence of Belarus at the summit is due to the G-7 countries' negative attitude to Lukashenka's personality. There must be a grain of truth to these statements: The Kremlin would be extremely embarrassed if the arrival of the G-7 leaders — and they have come to Boris Yeltsin in order, among other things, to give him moral support in his election struggle — were marred by yet another improvisation by the flamboyant Belarusian leader. As concerns internal Russian passions over the summit, yesterday they were running high in the Duma, heated up by the Communists.

The summit could become a major international event of 1996. It is not ruled out that it will work out a single position on creating a nuclear-free zone in Central and Eastern Europe. Furthermore, according to Yuriy Baturin, the president's national security adviser, the summit will provide new impetus to work on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The summit is quite likely to define the time frame for concluding the treaty (some time toward the end of the year).

One of the main questions on the summit's agenda, which will produce a direct impact on the development of nuclear engineering, is the disposal of weapons-grade plutonium. Today there are three main approaches to this issue: to reprocess plutonium into MOX [mixed oxide] fuel for nuclear power stations; to mothball it temporarily for possible use in the future; or to process it into glass and bury it. Each approach has weak and strong points, and there is no unanimity of views among the participants in the Moscow meeting. The idea of processing plutonium into MOX-fuel has the largest number of supporters — Russia, Canada, and the FRG — but they will be hard put to convince the other countries that this is the best option. The Russian president will be in an especially difficult position, having to stand up to pressure from the other participants on such a question as transparency in the processing of weapons-grade uranium. The [current level of] transparency does not satisfy the United States, which fears that under a well-known agreement Russia is selling it not the uranium that comes from dismantled nuclear weapons but such that was produced earlier as a strategic reserve or currently is produced at still-operating secret installations.

Another embarrassing subject for Russia is nuclear cooperation with Iran. Responding to a question from your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent on whether Russia could revise its position on the question under pressure from summit participants, Yuriy Baturin did not rule out that some changes are possible, but not of a basic kind. The president's adviser is sure that if Moscow has to date been able to stand up to pressure from the Western powers at the bilateral level, it will also be able to withstand it this time around should they choose to pool their efforts. To all appearances Russia has prepared, as a counter-argument, proposals on the creation of a special regime for cooperation in the nuclear sphere with the so-called threshold countries. It is not clear yet what the substance of the regime will be: After all, even the complete list of summit documents remains a closely guarded secret.

True, some results of the meeting became known before it even began. Viktor Mikhaylov, Atomic Energy Minister, and Jeremy Kinsman, Canadian ambassador to Russia, signed a memorandum of mutual understanding on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The signing immediately followed a meeting between Viktor Chernomyrdin and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that was held behind tightly closed doors. The negotiations were generally successful: Ambassador Jeremy Kinsman announced support for what other summiteers consider to be the most controversial proposal by Russia to the effect that countries possessing nuclear weapons should concentrate them on their own territory. Kinsman described that proposal as "realistic and sensible." Moscow applies it primarily to the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons on the territory of newly admitted NATO member states in Eastern Europe. It is not clear, however, whether the Western partners will agree to such a blunt interpretation of the "sensible" proposal.

Russia: Major Nuclear Energy Producers Participating in Summit

LD2004115896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1057 GMT 20 Apr 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Itar-Tass) — The countries taking part in the Moscow summit produce a major part of nuclear energy in the world and account for 80 per cent of nuclear reactors. Hence their special responsibility for enhancing the safety of nuclear power generation, says a document, circulated today by the press service of the Russian President, which is entitled "Russia's Stand On Nuclear Security Problems, Set Forth by President Yeltsin at the Moscow Summit on April 20, 1996."

The document says that, along with recognising the need for diversifying energy sources and contining the research into alternative energy potentialities, one should admit that nuclear, and later thermonuclear power engineeting is the most promising way. This is confirmed by joint Russian-American studies of alternative ways of the development of power engineering in Russia. Nuclear power engineering accounts for 17 per cent of world electricity output, which prevents annually the burning of 800 million tonnes of coal and the discharge into the atmosphere of 1.7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide. However, nuclear power engineering will become one of the main component parts of energy generation in the 21st century only on condition that it will meet the ever growing safety requirements.

Nuclear security includes both the protection against accidents in nuclear power units and the protection against the harmful impact of radioactive substances and ionizing irradiation. A modern notion of nuclear security includes as well the ability to view it on a global scope, without dividing it according to geographic and other characteristics.

It is only in this case that it will be possible to make a conscious, well-considered and realistic choice of the strategy of development of nuclear power engineering in the context of steady development, as well as to outline priority directions of international cooperation for a mid-term perspective.

Russia: G-7 Expected To Go Easy on Moscow's Nuclear Safety Record

MK2004122996 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Mikhail Karpov: "Vain Exercise?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The usual promises and high-sounding words, they think in the West, may very well result from the Moscow summit of G-7 leaders and the leaders of Russia which, as many people know, prefers to speak about a G-8. It is believed [in the West] that Saturday [20 April] will see the passing, in a festive atmosphere, of the final declaration, with the meeting's participants undertaking to give absolute priority to safety in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The most delicate issues, they say, will be left out.

There is word that the G-7 countries had agreed ahead of the Moscow meeting to give Russia no new promises of the financial aid required to bring the safety of its nuclear installations in line with Western standards. Indeed, everyone knows that putting to rights the nuclear installations in Eastern Europe is only possible through investing billions to modernize them.

Incidentally, one high-ranking German official accompanying Helmut Kohl to Moscow is said to have put it precisely like this: "We cannot afford to have Yeltsin invite us to do it and us to go and shell it out."

It is for this same reason that no one will apparently take Russia to task on matters of nuclear safety, so as not to hear it come back with: Yes, we admit that the situation is extremely serious, but we cannot straighten it out on our own today, so we hope for active assistance from our partners in the G-8! There is word that fears of fresh requests made it possible for Russia to even delete from the meeting's agenda a discussion on the situation surrounding its military nuclear installations, despite the fact that dozens of retired submarines with nuclear power units and fuel on board are rusting in the ports of the Kola Peninsula. Nor can one describe as safe the situation in the Northern Fleet's storage facilities for radioactive waste. Norway's ecologists, for example, argue that the radiation situation there is much worse than around Chernobyl.

There is yet another circumstance that, one should believe — and Western politicians also directly refer to it — holds the G-7 back from discussing the nitty-gritty of the problem: the presidential elections in Russia.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

One minister in Kohl's cabinet, for example, explains the chancellor's intention to refrain from criticizing Moscow's nuclear safety policy in this manner: "No one ought to trip up Yeltsin on the eve of the presidential elections."

If such somber forecasts prove even half true, such a big and widely trumpeted event as the Moscow antinuclear summit will indeed prove no more than a vain exercise.

But if Boris Yeltsin comes up with one of the things up his sleeve, the situation might radically change.

Russia: G-7 Summit Hears Report on People Affected by Radiation

LD2004160996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1233 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Apr 20 (Interfax) — About 116,000 people living in the areas affected by the accident that took place at the Chernobyl nuclear-power plant in Ukraine on April 26, 1986 were exposed to high degrees of radiation, and 200,000 participants in liquidating the accident to middle degrees. This is stated in a joint report submitted to participants in the summit of eight leading countries on nuclear safety, which opened in Moscow on Saturday, by the International Atomic Energy Agency and World Health Organization [WHO].

According to experts, following the Chernobyl disaster the incidence of thyroid gland cancer considerably increased among children in Belarus and Ukraine. A growth of such diseases has also been noted in Russia. By the end of last year 800 children aged under 15 living in the affected areas had been diagnosed as suffering from thyroid gland cancer. Over 400 cases were registered in Belarus, which had been affected by the Chernobyl disaster most of all.

Experts believe that thyroid glad cancer may become a relatively typical disease in Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, and considerable funds will be needed to cope with it.

The accident in Chernobyl led to contaminating with radioactive cesium-137 about 29,000 square kilometers, of which 16,500 lie in Belarus, 4,600 in Ukraine and 8,000 in Russia, the report says.

Nuclear physicists are concerned over the state of the sarcophagus built over the ruined reactor, the report says.

According to scientists, so far the sarcophagus performs its protective functions, but its long-term stability and the quality of its localization system give rise to doubts. Currently there are about 200 tonnes of nuclear fuel mixed with building materials within the sarcophagus.

Russia: Nuclear Summit Decides on Closing Chernobyl by 2000

LD2004131796 Paris France-Info Radio in French 1230 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The summit on nuclear issues has ended in Moscow which as expected concluded with the renewed commitment of the most powerful states to the closing of Chernobyl nuclear station by the year 2000. The G-7 and Russia adopted this morning the principle of option 0 on a ban of nuclear tests. They also stressed the need to consolidate cooperation in the disarmament and nuclear security fields.

Russia: Kuchma: Moscow Nuclear Summit Will Help Shut Chernobyl

LD2004143696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1233 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Interfax) — The Nuclear Safety Summit in Moscow may be highly instrumental in "implementing the memorandum on closing the Chernobyl nuclear power station," Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma said at a meeting with Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chretien in Moscow Saturday morning.

Kuchma thanked Chretien for signing the memo, the Ukrainian president's spokesman has reported, adding that the two leaders discussed trade and economic cooperation between their countries and "expressed dissatisfaction with its current level."

In an interview with an Interfax reporter after the meeting, Kuchma said that "the loans, agreed by Ukraine and Canada back in 1994, have not been put to work" through Ukraine's fault.

Kuchma will take part in one of the G-8 summit sessions in Moscow today. He is scheduled to meet with his French counterpart Jacques Chirac and his Russian opposite number Boris Yeltsin.

Russia: Kuchma Proposes G-7 Sign Agreements on Chernobyl Closure

LD2004145296 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1220 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma today delivered a speech at the second, expanded session of the G-7 member states and Russia, devoted to the issue of closing down the Chernobyl nuclear power station and problems facing Ukraine's power engineering. In his speech, President Kuchma

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

put forward a proposal to the heads of the G-7 member states to sign agreements with Ukraine on determining conditions, sources, and terms of funding the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Without this "Ukraine is incapable of assuming responsibility for decommissioning the station with the abidance by all the nuclear safety rules," Kuchma said.

A UNIAN correspondent reports that Kuchma, at the same time, spoke highly of the memorandum on a program for closing down the Chernobyl nuclear power station by the year 2000, which was signed by the government of Ukraine and the governments of the G-7 members, and also by the European Commission. However, the memorandum does not envisage the clear-cut financial obligations of the G-7 member states, Kuchma said. He is convinced that in order to implement the intentions proclaimed in the memorandum it is necessary to "confirm at the top political level the determination of the G-7 member states to provide Ukraine with timely financial and technical assistance [no closing quotation mark as received]. The signing of relevant agreements will be the most effective expression of such a political will, Leonid Kuchma said.

Kuchma pointed out Ukraine's limited economic potentials as compared with the amount of expenses required to ensure its nuclear-free status. "Ukraine is carrying the main burden of material costs to eliminate the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster." The president said 12 percent of the state budget is allocated annually to "cure the Chernobyl disease" and about $3 billion has been spent to alleviate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

Kuchma said that Ukraine's efforts are aimed at ensuring radiological safety of not just Ukraine, but the entire world. He stressed that at present the greatest danger stems not from the Chernobyl nuclear power station, but from nuclear waste, "thousands of tonnes of radioactive debris and contaminated soil." Meanwhile, the Ukrainian president pointed out that "the world public is incapable of overcoming the stereotypes of the so-called 'Chernobyl syndrome'" and therefore, Ukraine approved a decision to close down the station ahead of schedule on condition that proper and timely financial and technical assistance were rendered.

Kuchma pointed to the necessity of approaching the Chernobyl problem in a comprehensive manner and uniting scientific potential and financial possibilities of separate countries and international organizations for the sake of implementing the program for transforming the "Cover" facility into a ecologically safe system and rehabilitating contaminated territories. Kuchma also urged the world community to take part in the setting up of an international scientific center in the town of Slavutych and to join its activities with the aim of developing scientific and technological cooperation in the sphere of nuclear safety.

Russia: Japan To Help Russia Build Nuclear Storage Facilities

LD2004133996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1257 GMT 20 Apr 96

[By Andrey Varlamov and Andrey Kirillov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Itar-Tass) - Japan said it will provide assistance to Russia in building storage facilities for weapons-grade plutonium and highly-enriched uranium.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said at a nuclear security summit meeting of the G-7 countries and Russia in Moscow on Saturday that it is necessary to speed up the development of modern technologies ensure safe use of fissile material and welcomed the idea, suggested by the summit participants, of convening an international conference on this issue.

Hashimoto noted that Japan has been providing assistance, including financial, to Russia in building a nuclear waste storage facility in the Far East and expressed the confidence that it will be completed in the near future.

The prime minister hailed Russian President Boris Yeltsin's pledge to stop dumping nuclear waste in the sea even before Russia officially joins a corresponding amendment to the London Convention scheduled for later this year.

Russia: G-7 Summit Discusses NATO Expansion, Middle East Peace

LD2004174196 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Apr 96

[Report over video by unidentified correspondent; from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [video shows Chirac-Yeltsin news conference] The atmosphere at the final news conference by the two old friends, Boris Yeltsin and Jacques Chirac — at least, that was how the Russian president put it — was indeed warm. Jacques Chirac addressed his counterpart only as Boris Nikolayevich, and began his statement with words of admiration for Russia, Moscow, and in particular the Russian president's newly-restored residence.

As for nuclear safety, which was actually what the Moscow summit was all about, Boris Yeltsin told journalists about the decisions made by the Eight. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

All in all, one gained the impression that nuclear problems were pushed into the background during the Moscow summit. Problems of NATO's eastward expansion and discussion of the situation in Bosnia and Lebanon were in the forefront. [passage omitted]

As for the situation in Chechnya, it emerged that this was not discussed during the Moscow summit today. However, French President Jacques Chirac announced that he had raised the Chechen issue during his one-to-one meeting with Boris Yeltsin.

Russia: Measures Approved To Counter Nuclear Material Smuggling

LD2004183196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Interfax) — World powers' leaders participating in the Moscow summit on nuclear security on Saturday approved a joint program to counter illegal trafficking of nuclear materials.

The document points to the need to concentrate international efforts on safe storage of nuclear materials and their efficient protection, joint investigative, customs and law-enforcement activities to prevent international trafficking and sale of stolen materials, and on joint efforts to put an end to illegal supply of and demand for fissionable materials.

The summit participants agreed that international efforts to counter illegal trafficking of nuclear materials must be supported by existing mechanisms and the organization enforcing non-proliferation.

According to the document, responsibility for the storage of fissionable and other nuclear materials lies primarily with the countries possessing such materials, however the international community must support national efforts by providing coordinated assistance when necessary.

The sides agreed to regularly exchange information and quickly inform about incidents of theft and contraband of nuclear materials, to contribute to quick investigation of such incidents and to punishment of those involved in illegal trafficking of nuclear materials.

They also agreed to take joint measures to ensure more efficient use of IAEA guarantees and incentives to all countries to provide adequate financing to the international institution.

It was decided to immediately begin talks on a convention banning the production of fissionable materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The summit participants said such a convention must be signed as soon as possible.

Russia: G-7 Summit Favors Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban

LD2004183496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Interfax) — The heads of state of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations and Russia adopted a joint statement on the future Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty during the Moscow summit on nuclear safety and security Saturday.

Those at the summit confirmed the need to conclude and sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty by September 1996.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty will represent a specific move for achieving one of the priority goals of the international community in the areas of disarmament and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, the statement reads.

Those at the Moscow summit also agreed that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty must ban all kinds of nuclear explosions and confirmed their commitment to the idea of "a true comprehensive ban on nuclear tests," the statement reads.

Russia: Kohl: Nuclear-Free Zone in Europe Unlikely in Near Future

LD2004184496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Interfax) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told a briefing in Moscow Saturday that he saw no possibility of creating a nuclear-free zone in Central and East Europe in the near future.

Kohl praised the decision of the Moscow summit on nuclear safety and security regarding the necessity to end nuclear tests.

The summit's session in which Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma took part confirmed the last year's agreement to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant before the beginning of the next millennium, Kohl said.

However, he said he considered immediate closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant as unlikely because Ukraine does not have sufficient capabilities for producing electricity.

Energy supplies to Ukraine in winter 1996 were uninterrupted "only due to a very substantial Russian aid," Kohl said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kohl declined to comment on presidential elections in Russia planned for June 16, but added that his sympathies are "well-known."

Russia: Yeltsin Says Summit Countries Ready To Ban Nuclear Testing

LD2004132996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1247 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 April — The G-8 countries are ready to sign already today a comprehensive treaty banning, beginning this year, nuclear weapons tests in any environment and of any size, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said at a press conference on the results of the Moscow summit on nuclear safety. However, there is China, he said, with which work should be carried out so that a treaty can be signed with this state too. "Then the treaty will become comprehensive and permanent," Yeltsin said.

Russia: Yeltsin Discusses Nuclear Disposal at News Conference

LD2004132096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1242 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 April — There was a "varied" reaction by the G-7 countries to Russia's proposal to store nuclear waste on a state's own territory. This was stated by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at a press conference today on the results of the Moscow summit on nuclear safety.

"The majority of the countries with quite large territories agreed with this way of posing the question. The small countries — where it is difficult to dispose of nuclear waste on their own territory — were skeptical about this proposal," the Russian head of state said.

Russia: Yeltsin 'Not Satisfied' With Pace of G-7 Change To G-8

LD2004145896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1337 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Apr — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has said "that today he is not satisfied" with the pace of the transformation of the "seven" into a full-scale "eight," meaning Russia's signing up to the club of the seven [most] industrially developed countries. He made this statement at a news conference on the results of the Moscow summit on questions of nuclear safety that was held by its co-chairmen, the presidents of Russia and France.

And although the question of Russia's signing up to the club of the seven industrially developed countries was discussed by the participants in the Moscow forum, in a practical sense, as Boris Yeltsin noted, "that was not our task today." The Russian and French presidents planned to implement this task in Lyon on 26-27 June, after the presidential elections in Russia. "So there are some problems here," Boris Yeltsin stressed.

Speaking about the position of the summit participants, the Russian president noted "that not everyone is unequivocally expressing the view that Russia is fully prepared to become an equal member of this club." According to Boris Yeltsin, some people believe that in an economic sense Russia is not quite solvent. Although I have to say, Boris Yeltsin stressed, that we give credit no less than any other country.

Personally speaking, the head of the Russian state added, "my friend Jacques Chirac supports the position of Russia's entry into the club of the seven industrially developed countries" and advocates "formulating this in Lyon." "But how this is to be done is difficult to say at the moment," the Russian president added.

French President Jacques Chirac endorsed what Boris Yeltsin said. He noted that in a political sense there are no problems regarding Russia's signing up to the "big seven." At the same time, Jacques Chirac remarked that some members of the club of the seven industrially developed countries need to be convinced from the economic viewpoint. "But if you are to ask my opinion about Russia's signing up to the 'big seven', then I support this decision," the French president said.

Russia: Yeltsin: Summit Confirms Russia's Status of Great Power

LD2004140796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1333 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Itar-Tass) — A G-8 security summit meeting held in Moscow on Saturday confirmed Russia's status of not only a great power but also a major country of the world, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said.

Speaking at a press conference after the summit, Yeltsin said the international community has once again demonstrated support for dramatic democratic and economic reform in Russia.

The presidents and the prime ministers of Russia, the United States, France, Germany, Britain, Japan, Italy and Canada discussed a wide range of issues, focusing on common guidelines for their nuclear security policies, Yeltsin said.

"This was a discussion of friends, not opponents, because the atom became a uniting, not dividing, factor," he said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russia: Yeltsin Comments on End of Nuclear Summit

LD2004135796 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Moscow meeting of heads of state of the G-8 on nuclear safety has ended its work. Co-chairmen Russian President Boris Yeltsin and French President Jacques Chirac gave a joint press conference on the results of the meeting. Speaking at the press conference Boris Yeltsin said:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] The full-scale G-8 has assembled in Moscow for the first time. The world community has once again displayed support for the deep democratic transformations and economic reforms in our country. The heads of states and governments of Russia, the United States, Great Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan discussed a broad spectrum of problems. We focused our attention on general guidelines for conducting a policy of nuclear safety.

Let me stress that we conducted our discussions not as rivals but as friends since the atom is not something that divides our countries but, on the contrary, unites them. [end recording]

Russia: Yeltsin To Tell China About Results of Nuclear Summit

LD2004140196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1302 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Apr — During his upcoming visit to Beijing, Boris Yeltsin intends to tell the Chinese leaders about the results of the Moscow summit on nuclear safety. The head of the Russian state said this at the news conference on the results of the summit that was given by its co-chairmen — the presidents of Russia and France. Talking about improving dialogue between China and the G-8, Boris Yeltsin said that the solution of this issue depends on the position of the Chinese side. Until now, he said, at his meetings with Chinese leaders the subject has never been raised or discussed.

Russia: 'Text' of G-8 Statement on Ukraine

LD2004144196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1358 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Itar-Tass) — The leaders of the world's seven major industrialised countries and Russia adopted a joint statement on Ukraine at their nuclear security summit in Moscow on Saturday.

Following is the full text of the statement:

"On April 20, we met with President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine to jointly discuss a wide range of issues concerning the improvement of nuclear safety. We agreed to continue our bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Ukraine in this field.

"President Kuchma stated Ukraine's support for the Programme of Prevention and Combating Illegal Trade in Nuclear Material and expressed readiness to support the goals and actions laid out in the declaration of the Moscow nuclear security summit meeting. President Kuchma also supported the statement on the CTBT.

"We acknowledge the importance of President Kuchma's decision to shut down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by the year 2000 in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed on December 20, 1995 in its entirety.

"The countries-signatories confirmed their commitment to the full implementation of the Memorandum and will pursue close cooperation with Ukraine and international development banks to work out measures supporting Ukraine's decision. For his part, President Kuchma reaffirmed Ukraine's determination to conduct active and effective cooperation under the Memorandum."

Russia: 'Text' of Moscow Summit Statement on Nuclear Test Ban

LD2004202996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1154 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Apr — The Moscow summit on nuclear safety has adopted a Statement on a Global Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Here is the full text of the document:

"Statement on Global Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

"We affirmed our commitment to conclude and sign a Global Nuclear Test Ban Treaty by September 1996. We agreed that the Global Nuclear Test Ban Treaty will be a concrete step toward achieving one of the highest priority objectives of the international community in the field of disarmament and nonproliferation and the fulfillment of the obligations under Article VI of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We agreed that the Global Nuclear Test Ban Treaty must prohibit any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion. We affirmed that this would constitute a truly comprehensive nuclear test ban.

"In this connection, we recalled the importance of the decision 'On principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament' adopted 11 May 1995."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russia: Nuclear Summit Hails Russian Political, Economic Reforms

LD2004182896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Interfax) — The political and economic reforms in Russia have provided to the international community "real opportunities for cooperation in the area of nuclear security," according to a declaration approved by the Moscow nuclear summit Saturday.

The countries which signed the document regard nuclear security as an absolute priority on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident and intend to join efforts "to rule out a repetition of such a tragedy" in the future.

According to the declaration, "ensuring stable nuclear security will require favorable economic and legal environment, where national supervisory institutions will be able to fully carry out their independent duties."

The document envisages the introduction of an effective regime of responsibility for nuclear damage and adequate compensation to victims of nuclear accidents.

A special chapter of the declaration is dedicated to the strategy of energy industry development in countries undergoing a period of economic transition, where increased nuclear security is required.

A chapter on nuclear waste reiterates the summit participants' adherence to the ban on sea dumping of radioactive waste and calls on all countries to join the 1993 amendment to the London convention on the issue as soon as possible.

As for the prevention of the illegal trafficking of nuclear materials, the declaration confirms countries' basic responsibility for ensuring the safety of their nuclear materials and the need to include them into an efficient national control system.

The summit participants stressed the need for safe and effective handling of weapons-grade materials "which are no longer necessary for defense purposes." Nuclear countries themselves bear the primary responsibility for the safe handling of weapons-grade materials, however the declaration calls for cooperation on the part of other countries and international institutions where necessary.

The eight countries also signed a program to counter illegal trafficking of nuclear materials, which points to the need to concentrate international efforts on safe storage of nuclear materials and their efficient protection, joint investigative, customs and law-enforcement activities to prevent international nuclear contraband and sale of stolen materials.

Russia: 'Vremya' Highlights Differences at G-7 Summit

LD2004202696 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Apr 96

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The most serious issue for the seven leaders was the one on the principles of stationing of nuclear weapons in the European countries. This issue was not on the agenda of the summit originally. It had been raised by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Let us remind you that already a week ago Yeltsin announced Russia's plan to withdraw its warheads from Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan before the end of this year. Correspondingly, President Yeltsin had called on the world leaders to support this proposal and concentrate their nuclear weapons on their territories. It has become known from well-informed sources that the Western partners have not met the Russian initiative with delight this time. Moreover, as it had been predicted by experts, it was received rather coolly.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] On the surface everything looks decent and orderly. As Bill Clinton had predicted there were no miracles. But intrigue, the sort one reads in detective stories, was still to be found. It had been stirred up, unexpectedly for him, by a spokesman for a Japanese delegation, Hiroshi Hashimoto. Fate decreed him to tell journalists about yesterday's official supper at the Kremlin. The modest Japanese, without batting an eyelid, said that Boris Yeltsin had spoken uninterruptedly for 45 minutes. During that time he told the seven leaders about his understanding of the election situation in Russia and Russia's view of nuclear safety, according to which nuclear weapons should not be taken outside the country that owns it. Unfortunately, there had been no time to discuss other issues since the concert started by then.

Today, during the morning session of the summit our president announced Russia's nine-point strong nuclear safety plan. Under one of its points Russia thinks that you cannot actually talk about nonproliferation of nuclear weapons if these weapons are stationed on the territory of nuclear-free countries. Nuclear countries should keep their weapons on their own territories. Yeltsin had once again spoken about the Russian plan during the final news conference without any mention of mobile rockets that are good at moving around. In reply to a direct question from a Russian journalist whether Russia's view had found support, the answer was more than strange.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Yeltsin] I can say that the reaction was different. The majority of countries, countries that are quite large in terms of territory, had agreed with such a formulation of the question. Whereas, smaller countries that are finding it difficult to deploy [nuclear] waste on their territories — they reacted to this with skepticism.

[Correspondent] What is behind that? Does that mean that our initiative has not been supported or have we decided to remove this question until better times — this is a sort of the detective story. By the way, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told the news conference in Moscow that it will not be possible to create a non-nuclear zone in the countries of Eastern and Central Europe in the near future. Thus, he indirectly confirmed that U.S. ground missiles that are located in Western Germany will remain there.

The second story is the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear station. [passage omitted].

The third detective story concerns the signing of an agreement on the comprehensive nuclear test ban. It was agreed during the summit that we should strive to sign such an agreement already this September. But Russia had its reservations. It wanted to reserve the right to conduct nuclear laboratory testing. Does that mean that objections had been removed? And what about China? Without China it will not be possible to reach the comprehensive agreement. Yeltsin himself might clarify the situation. He had been persistently asked to find out about Beijing's stance during his visit to China.

Thus, the summit of the eight great leaders has come to an end. The next meeting will take place in Lyons, where Russia might become a fully-fledged member of G-8. However, some, unlike Western Germany and France, have been opposing this so far. Tomorrow, is the day of the 10th Russian-U.S. summit, which probably is holding some surprises. We will wait and see. [video shows Clinton during the talks, Kohl, Yeltsin, and Kuchma at news conferences]

Russia: Moscow Nuclear Summit Yields 'No Sensational Results'

LD2004173096 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Apr 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the capital of the Russian Federation, the leaders of the eight great powers discussed the problems of nuclear safety and put their signatures to a joint declaration. The majority of the summit participants agreed to restrict the deployment of their nuclear inventory [boyezapas] within the bounds of their own territories.

The Moscow summit yielded no sensational results. But then, no sensations were planned, for all the documents signed had been drawn up and coordinated many times in advance. The main event, perhaps, was the very fact such a meeting took place at all. Russia demonstrated the degree of its involvement with the club of the world's elite states. The West had the opportunity once again to try and explain the positions of the sides on the nuclear aspects of the proclaimed expansion of NATO. Aleksandr Zinenko reports on today's events in the Kremlin.

[Zinenko] French President Jacques Chirac, co-chairman of the summit, was the first to arrive at the Kremlin; U.S. President Bill Clinton turned up last, after his usual morning run. Boris Yeltsin met the Western leaders in the Oval Office. They all politely admired the president's Kremlin residence, which has just been restored. All this was on the surface reminiscent of a meeting of old friends being proudly shown round a newly refurbished apartment by the delighted owner.

For the first time, the G-7 assembled on the territory of a country that is not a member of the elite club of seven leading states. However, the Western leaders stubbornly denied that they were going to Moscow to render Boris Yeltsin support in his election campaign.

In Moscow, however, officials did not conceal that they were counting on the success of the meeting to enhance Boris Yeltsin's prestige.

The nuclear safety sessions, organized on the Kremlin's initiative, were intended to show the voters that whatever Yeltsin's opponents say, Russia is taken account of and Moscow continues to play an important role in international affairs.

Officially, the summit meeting was devoted to nuclear safety issues. As was expected, the leaders of the eight states adopted a declaration that confirms the participating countries' commitment to strengthening nuclear safety. The leaders advocated expanding nuclear-free zones and developing new technologies for reprocessing and storing nuclear materials. In addition, the summit participants adopted a program of measures against smuggling of nuclear materials, which provides for cooperation between Western and Russian special services. The leaders also stated the need to conclude a treaty on stopping all nuclear tests as soon as possible.

In the afternoon, the summit participants were joined by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. He confirmed Kiev's previous decision to close Chernobyl nuclear power station by the year 2000, but at the same time he demanded that the G-7 make precise financial

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

obligations. [video shows leaders arriving and looking around the Oval Office; Yeltsin pointing to details of decor; and Kuchma joining the table]

Russia: Kohl Satisfied With Results of Nuclear Security Summit

LD2004152096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1446 GMT 20 Apr 96

[By Nikolay Kalintsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Itar-Tass) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl expressed deep satisfaction with the results of the Moscow summit on nuclear security.

"We have reached very good results," the German cabinet head told a news conference at the Balchug-Kempinskiy Hotel here on Saturday.

The Moscow conference will give a powerful impetus to resolving the problem of security of nuclear reactors, which was tackled very slowly since the Munich G-7 summit in 1992, the chancellor stressed.

In the meantime, according to Kohl, security remains the supreme principle of the nuclear power industry which has no alternative in the foreseeable future.

Speaking about financial aspects on raising security of nuclear reactors, Kohl noted that they should not overstep the limits of real possibilities. According to the chancellor's data, Central and East European countries as well as countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States received aid totalling 2.15 billion marks over the past few years.

Russia got 750 million out of this sum. Germany leads other donor countries, appropriating 253 million marks for these purposes.

Construction of a new entombment at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant will tax considerable outlays. According to Kohl, Ukraine took an obligation to close down the station by the year 2000.

The question on its construction provokes disputes among specialists. Therefore, the European Commission should give the final conclusion by the end of this autumn.

The chancellor expressed gratitude to Russian President Boris Yeltsin for wonderful organisation of the Moscow summit meeting.

Later in the day, the German chancellor departed for home.

Russia: Hashimoto: 'Friendly Relations' Established With Yeltsin

LD2004172196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1616 GMT 20 Apr 96

[By Andrey Varlamov and Andrey Kirillov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Itar-Tass) — "Boris Yeltsin and I established friendly relations, although this does not mean that all disputes are over," Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said, replying to Itar-Tass at a news conference on the results of his participation in the Moscow summit on nuclear security.

"Think that we have become friends. We can, spelling out our positions to each other, look for a opportunity for compromises," the Japanese leader noted. He expressed opinion that good relations between the leaders will help strengthen also relations between the two nations.

In Hashimoto's opinion, it is thanks to the friendly atmosphere which developed at their talks in the Kremlin that the sides could discuss such issues as talks on fishing cooperation in the zone of the South Kuriles and an end to dumping of nuclear waste by Russia into the World Ocean.

Hashimoto noted with a smile that Yeltsin, speaking about Russia's refusal to bury nuclear waste at sea, "read, as it were, innermost thoughts" of the Japanese premier.

The Japanese cabinet head admitted that he took advice of U.S. President Bill Clinton who suggested during a recent meeting in Tokyo that he establish good personal relations with Yeltsin.

Hashimoto said that at a meeting in line with the present summit, "we with Boris Yeltsin told Bill Clinton jokingly that we are friends now."

Russia: Italian Premier on Russia's Concern Over NATO Expansion

LD2104054896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0538 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 21 (Itar-Tass) — It is essential to take into account Russia's concern over NATO's eastward expansion plans, Italian Prime Minister Lamberto Dini has acknowledged during a meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

"There may be no unilateral decisions on that score," the Italian Premier told a press conference on Saturday at the close of the Moscow G8 summit on nuclear security issues.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Dini informed journalists of about his talks with the Russian head of state. He said the Russian president emphasised that the North Atlantic bloc's eastward expansion is "unacceptable" to Russia. The Italian premier, for his part, did not rule such a possibility but expressed the conviction that "both NATO and all ex-Communist countries should closely cooperate to ensure security in Europe".

Russia: ITAR-TASS: Clinton Opposes Nuclear Deal With Iran

LD2004203096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1618 GMT 20 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Pakhomov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Apr — The summit on nuclear safety held in Moscow today made a great contribution to easing the threat of the proliferation of nuclear arms and nuclear materials, U.S. President Bill Clinton said. He gave a news conference on the results of the G-8 summit in the Radisson-Slavyanskaya hotel.

"The current summit put the issue of nuclear safety at the center of the international agenda," the head of the U.S. Administration said. The main thing in the use of nuclear energy is to ensure the safety of people and "we made yet another step away from the edge of the nuclear abyss," Bill Clinton said.

The U.S. President stressed the importance of the statement adopted at the summit in which the participants in the summit confirmed their adherence to concluding and signing by September this year he Universal Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. "Never before have our countries united in the desire to achieve this aim," he said.

During the news conference Bill Clinton touched upon the problem of the Iranian nuclear program. We must not allow Iran to create nuclear weapons, he said and stressed that "we don't need more countries with nuclear weapons" on the planet.

The head of the U.S. administration said he disagreed with Russia's intention to supply nuclear technology to Iran because Iran "is developing its own nuclear program."

Replying to the question whether the supply of reactors to Tehran would complicate relations between the United States and Russia, Bill Clinton firmly said: "I don't think so. On the whole we have made great progress with the Russians in the matter of nuclear safety."

Russia: President Clinton Pledges Support for Russian Reforms

LD2004174596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1652 GMT 20 Apr 96

[By Aleksandr Pakhomov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Itar-Tass) — U.S. President Bill Clinton pledged support for democratic and economic reform in Russia and said he believes Russia has a huge economic potential.

Speaking at a press conference in Moscow's Radisson-Slavyanskaya hotel after a nuclear security summit meeting of the G-7 countries and Russia in Moscow on Saturday, Clinton said the United States will not interfere in the presidential elections in Russia.

He said it would be wrong for the U.S. end any country to tell people how they should vote. Neither the U.S president no any one else can tell the people of Russia how they should vote, he added.

Clinton said he hopes that Russian people have enough wisdom to assess all the consequences of the choice that they will make on June 16.

Russia: Clinton Tours Kremlin, Meets With Politicians

LD2104173496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1714 GMT 21 Apr 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Itar-Tass) — U.S. President Bill Clinton today took a walk around the Kremlin with his Russian host after five hours of talks and a joint press conference and before rushing to Spaso House, the residence of the U.S. ambassador in Russia, for a meeting with a group of leading Russian politicians, including candidates for the Presidency in the June elections in Russia.

During his tour of the Kremlin, President Bill Clinton talked to a group of Russian children to whom, as well as the whole of Russia, he wished never to have to worry about a peaceful future. He said he wished Russian children a future that was clear to them and for their grandchildren to laugh just as they laughed today.

The U.S. President was shown the Tsar Bell, the Tsar cannon and other sights of the Kremlin with Boris Yeltsin taking over from the guide from time to time to point out a detail of interest or to describe the Kremlin's cathedrals and their history.

Bill Clinton was obviously impressed and showed great interest in the Moscow Kremlin's architectural

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

monuments. He asked when the Kremlin cathedrals had been built and which was the oldest.

Clinton asked Yeltsin where gold came from for gilding the numerous onion- and helm-shaped domes of the cathedrals. Yeltsin responded by saying, "We have huge deposits of gold in the soil. A short time ago, a new gold deposit was discovered in Sukhoy Log in Siberia. It is very big, and it will take hundreds of years to work, although we do not mine much gold at present."

Yeltsin spoke at some length about the Krasnoye Kryltso (red, or beautiful porch). "We restored it about a year ago. In the past, the Russian tsars used to come down the porch to address the people. Although we have no tsars now and we are not monarchs ourselves, but we also walked down the stairs of this porch with Queen Elizabeth of England and, a short time ago, with President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenka to talk with the people."

The two presidents stopped a few times during their walk to talk with groups of tourists.

"We with Bill Clinton agreed on all questions and we now have no problems either in bilateral relations or with regard to international issues," Boris Yeltsin said.

The Russian president used the opportunity to ask people who they would vote for in the coming presidential elections. The leader of a group of tourists told Yeltsin that "some thinking will have to be done," which evoked a quick response from the Russian president, "Well, you have two months to go, and please think well. For you will have to make a very responsible choice — the fate of all Russia is hanging in the balance."

Upon completing their walk around the Kremlin, the two presidents hugged each other in a brotherly manner, and President Clinton told Yeltsin that it had been a great trip, a great summit and that he was grateful "to all of you."

He did not miss the chance of mentioning presidential business plans by saying that he and President Yeltsin (whom he called simply Boris) were due to discuss the Middle East issue in a the next two days. Yeltsin confirmed that he and "Bill" would certainly reach each other by phone in the next two days and discuss ways of settling the crisis in the Middle East.

U.S. President then left for the residence of the U.S. ambassador in Moscow for a meeting with Russian politicians including economist and politician Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, Nizhniy Novgorod Governor Boris Nemtsov, Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, Yekaterinburg Governor Eduard Rossel and ex-privatisation chief Anatoliy Chubays.

Russia: Clinton Meets Zyuganov, Yavlinskiy, Other Politicians

LD2204082496 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0700 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Before leaving Moscow, U.S. President Bill Clinton held a two-hour meeting with a group of well-known Russian politicians. The meeting took place at the residence of his ambassador to Russia. Those invited included leaders of the opposition. According to Bill Clinton, such meetings are an established tradition of U.S. democracy, and he prefers to play by the rules. Boris Yeltsin did not object, in principle, to the meeting even though his rivals in the presidential race sat down at the roundtable with Clinton.

[Begin Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy recording] I reminded him that Russia has never before elected its president. When the original election was held, the Russian Federation was still part of the USSR. [end recording]

For his part, the leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] declared that the U.S. president displayed no antagonism toward him.

[Begin CPRF leader Gennadiy Zyuganov recording] We differed on a number of things, but this a natural, normal, democratic thing. [end recording]

Governor Eduard Rossel said that, on the whole, the meeting was very courteous and Bill Clinton mainly listened, without making his own comments.

The invitees also included State Duma Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev, General Aleksandr Lebed, Anatoliy Chubays, and Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov — 12 people in all.

Russia: Politicians Remark on Meeting With Clinton

LD2104182696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1808 GMT 21 Apr 96

[By Aleksandr Pakhomov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Itar-Tass) — U.S. President Bill Clinton met a group of Russia's prominent politicians at the U.S. ambassador's residence on Sunday to discuss the possible outcome of the June 16 presidential election in Russia.

The meeting, which lasted more than two hours, was attended by leader of the reformist block Yabloko Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Communist party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, State Duma (lower house) member Aleksandr Lebed, State Duma speaker Gennadiy Seleznev,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, governor of the Nizhniy Novgorod region Boris Nemtsov, governor of the Sverdlovsk region Eduard Rossel, deputy State Duma speaker Svetlana Goryacheva, and former Russian Vice-Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays.

Yavlinskiy, Zyuganov and Lebed are President Boris Yeltsin's rivals in the June 16 poll.

The list of recommended guests was compiled by U.S. Ambassador to Moscow Thomas Pickering, sources in the embassy told Tass.

Ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy was not on the list.

Asked before the meeting about the reaction of the White House to a possible communist victory at Russia's June 16 presidential elections, Clinton said he was not going to meddle in the elections as the Russian people would make their own choice.

"It was a friendly talk. Contradicting opinions were voiced by various participants," Nemtsov said after the meeting. "Clinton listened to all of them. For example, Yuriy Luzhkov, who sat next to Gennadiy Zyuganov, said things which were not very pleasant to Gennadiy Andreyevich, who did the same. However, everything was peaceful. President Clinton did not pressurise us in any way," he said.

"Everybody expressed their opinions concerning both Russian-U.S. relations and the forthcoming elections. The Russians know these viewpoints. Maybe, it was exotic that Gennadiy Zyuganov's position was a very liberal one — a multi-form economy, private property, a multi-party system, free press. The only question which excited us was whether this policy was meant for export or for domestic consumption," he said.

"As for Russian-U.S. relations, I expressed a desire to establish closer ties not with the United States as a country but with the states, as both Russia and the United States are federative states. Clinton liked it. He said in response that a decentralisation of power was underway in the United States," Nemtsov said.

"The meeting was a very friendly one," Rossel told Tass. "Self-composed people gathered, although some remarks were tough ones. Lots of tears were shed in over the situation in Russia. I said the situation was not so bad as the leading presidential candidates were depicting. Exports brought in 3.5 billion U.S. dollars in the Sverdlovsk region in 1995. We have 45 thousand small businesses. It has never been like that," he said.

"Clinton asked us at the very beginning about the social and economic situation in Russia and what was the way out, in our opinion. Clinton listened to what was said without comment. There was no dispute between the participants," Rossel said.

"The meeting was of ornamental character, although it showed that Clinton is really interested about what is going on in Russia," Yavlinskiy said.

"Different topics were discussed. I told him that the democratic process in Russia must continue and that the presidential elections must take place. Clinton had an opportunity of listening to very different sides," he said.

Russia is a multi-party democracy, Clinton said as early as Saturday explaining his desire to meet Russian politicians, including opposition ones.

He said he is eager to meet opposition politicians during all of his foreign trips, as all U.S. Presidents have followed such a policy. Clinton had a similar meeting with Russian politicians during his Moscow visit in 1995.

Clinton left Moscow for the United States on Sunday.

Russia: Yeltsin: Clinton 'Promised' No Immediate NATO Expansion

LD2104144496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1257 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Interfax) — The U.S.- Russian bilateral summit agreed that NATO will not step up eastward expansion for some time to meet Russia's request, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told a press conference in the Kremlin Sunday.

He said U.S. president Bill Clinton had promised him to influence "his comrades-in-arms."

Possibly, Russia and NATO will find new approaches to the issue later on, Yeltsin said. "Not a single country may be admitted to NATO without Russia's consent," he suggested. Such decisions may and must be made only by consensus, he said.

Explaining his view of the issue, Clinton said his position on the NATO expansion remained unchanged. At the same time, he stressed that this position did not affect Russia in any way.

The two presidents said they had instructed experts to define the difference between strategic and tactical anti-missile systems. "Once we had differences with the Americans on the anti-missile systems. When Clinton became president, we reiterated our firm commitment to the ABM treaty to each other," Yeltsin said. "We have had no reason to doubt it as long as Clinton is president."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russia: Clinton Backs Political Settlement in Chechnya

LD2104145096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1257 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Interfax) — U.S. President Bill Clinton announced at a press conference in the Kremlin Sunday that he had always supported a negotiated solution to the Chechnya crisis.

At the same time, he underlined that Chechnya is a part of Russia. He recalled of the civil war in the United States which led to the loss of many human lives. However, President Lincoln then said that not a single state could secede.

The people of the United States agrees that Chechnya is a part of Russia. He also proposed assistance to the search for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Russia: Summit: Yeltsin Opening Remarks at 21 Apr News Conference

LD2104121096 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 21 Apr 96

[Opening remarks by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at a joint news conference with President Bill Clinton held after the Nuclear Summit in Moscow on 21 April — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] I have to say that the relationship between myself and the President of the United States of America improves with our every meeting. Not one of these meetings has been without content. They have definitely brought benefits to our countries and to our peoples as well. Without doubt, yesterday's meeting of the G-8 provided much, and so has our meeting today. Because during this meeting we discussed a very large number of issues and problems that were of a bilateral and international nature or overlapped with international issues, and so on.

I would like to say to those in the mass media who are already making up stories about how the G-8 planned to meet in April specially to help President Yeltsin — that's not so.

Russia: Clinton: U.S. Wants Russia Strong, Stable, Open

LD2104165596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1621 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Itar-Tass) — President Bill Clinton on Sunday said the United States wants to see Russia as strong, stable, and open partner, capable of settling problems on a parity basis.

Creating a viable democracy is a hard job but Russia has made big progress in this field, Clinton said at a joint news conference with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the Kremlin. The two presidents spoke to the press after an eight-nation nuclear safety summit and an over-three-hour-long bilateral meeting.

Clinton admitted that the forthcoming presidential polls in the two countries may to certain extent impact bilateral relations. However, he expressed hope that cooperation between two nations will extend into future regardless of the elections outcome as they do have common interests.

Russia: Yeltsin: Nuclear Test Ban Treaty To Be Signed This Year

LD2104164496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1502 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin believes that the treaty on the complete prohibition of nuclear tests will be signed this year. "I'm confident in this," he told a press conference Sunday following his talks with U.S. president Bill Clinton.

With reference to the opinions of the participants in the Moscow summit on nuclear security, which finished earlier, Yeltsin said that the leaders of the eight states had agreed to sign this treaty in 1996 thus banning nuclear tests "once and for all."

However, not all of the nuclear powers were represented at the Moscow summit, he said. "A great deal of work is to be done with those who were absent, first of all with China," said Yeltsin.

U.S. President Bill Clinton added that in his opinion certain countries would like to leave a loophole for running their own "peaceful tests." The most difficult thing is to convince China that it should stop nuclear tests completely, said Clinton.

He said he had asked President Yeltsin to raise this question on behalf of the eight states during his forthcoming visit to China.

Russia: Yeltsin Tells Clinton New Gold Deposit Found in Siberia

LD2104154896 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1440 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text]Following a joint news conference in the Kremlin today the Russian and U.S. presidents toured the Kremlin.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Clinton noticed the abundance of gold in the Cathedral. Is there so much gold in your country that you can even cover domes with it, asked Clinton.

We do, of course, have gold, replied Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, but there is lots more of it in the earth. He explained that a new deposit had recently been discovered in Siberia. However, we do not extract all that much gold, for the time being. Nonetheless, we make sure that the State gold reserve has enough, added the Russian president.

Bidding him farewell, Clinton thanked Yeltsin for the magnificent organization of the summit.

Russia: Clinton, Yeltsin Discuss Disarmament, CFE Treaty

LD2104143296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1257 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Interfax) — The Russian and U.S. presidents, Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton, focused on disarmament problems during their official talks which ended in the Kremlin Sunday, Yeltsin's spokesman Sergey Medvedev told Interfax.

The two presidents in particular considered the START-II strategic arms reduction treaty and the ABM treaty on the limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems, Medvedev said.

The presidents brought closer the two countries' positions regarding flank limitations under the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, he said.

Yeltsin briefed Clinton on the situation in the breakaway internal republic of Chechnya on the U.S. president's request, Medvedev said.

Before the beginning of the working breakfast, Clinton contacted U.S. secretary of State Warren Christopher by telephone.

Yeltsin also showed the Russian president's residence to his U.S. counterpart.

During the scheduled breakfast in the Kremlin, the presidents and the two countries' delegations will continue to consider a number of actual problems.

The two presidents will hold a news conference in the Kremlin at around 2:00 p.m.

Russia: Yeltsin, Clinton Summit News Conference Detailed

LD2104142096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1257 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Interfax) — The Russian-American summit lasted for almost five hours and dealt with the problems which the leaders of the eight states had discussed in Moscow Saturday. The U.S. and American presidents discussed, in the first place, problems of security and regional stability. "Naturally, bilateral problems were also discussed," President Yeltsin told a press conference Sunday.

He said that the Russian-American summit talks had made a great contribution to the implementation of the decisions which the leaders of the eight states had taken in the sphere of security. He also announced that the situation in Israel and Lebanon, and conventional armaments in Europe also figured prominently during the talks.

The talks dealt with ways of improving the situation in Bosnia, where "the Russian and American peacekeeping contingents successfully cooperate," said Yeltsin.

He noted at the same time that in the future priority importance should be attached to the non-military aspects of the settlement — the observance of human rights and the organization of elections.

He pointed out that the presidential elections in Russia and the United States cannot hamper "the policy of long-term cooperation between the two countries."

"Our policy is not affected by momentary considerations. We talk openly about the problems which exist in our relations. For us, it's a long-established practice. One can even say that it's an absolutely normal thing when we express some criticism of one another and then respond to it. Such things are normal in any family. These problems are not of ideological nature," said Yeltsin.

The United States and Russia, Yeltsin continued, are great powers and "it's not easy for them to fit into the new global reality and dovetail their national interests with the interests of other countries."

During the summit, the two states' course was specified. Yeltsin said, "We clearly understand that equitable partnership and cooperation meet the interests of both countries," he said.

He emphasized that the majority of the Russian and U.S. citizens support this course.

He announced that during his visit to China he will inform the Chinese leaders of all questions discussed by the leaders of the eight countries in Moscow. He also said that he hoped "to find understanding in China."

President Clinton stated in his turn that whereas several years before talks between the presidents were a rare occasion, now the situation has changed so much that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

it is not the fact of the talks but the problems discussed during them that interest the public.

He emphasized that over the past three years the U.S. and Russia had done a great deal to ensure international security. As an example he said that the two countries' missiles are not targeted against each other. He highly appraised the START-1 treaty and said that weapons will be reduced even further after the ratification of the START-2 treaty. As a positive example of the work of the leaders of the eight countries Clinton said that much had been done to ensure that nuclear materials do not get into unreliable hands.

He said that lately relations between the U.S. and Russia had been improving not only in the political sphere, but also in trade. The volume of trade has increased by 65 percent, which helped create new jobs, he said.

He said, however, that disagreement still existed over the flank limitations of the armed forces in Europe. The sides have moved closer to the solution of this problem during the talks, said Clinton.

He noted that growing democratization in Russia could be judged from the elections to the State Duma and the forthcoming presidential elections.

Russia: President Clinton Takes Leave of Yeltsin

LD2104132696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1202 GMT 21 Apr 96

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 21 April — "Marvellous trip, great summit," U.S. President Bill Clinton said today as he bade farewell to President of Russia Boris Yeltsin following a tour of the Kremlin they made after holding a joint news conference on the results of today's Russian-American summit meeting.

"In the next two days we have to have a talk about the Middle East," Clinton added. Boris Yeltsin agreed, and suggested to the American president that they should call one another in the next couple of days to discuss the Middle East situation.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Political Issues

Russia: Chubays Attacks Zyuganov's Performance at Clinton Reception

LD2104203596 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Apr 96

[From the "Zerkalo" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Clinton today gave a small reception at the Spaso House, in the residence of the U.S. ambassador, to which he had invited a whole range of Russian politicians. The invitation of Gennadiy Zyuganov seemed sensational.

[Begin Anatoliy Chubays recording, former first deputy prime minister in charge of privatization] I did not get a very good impression. Above all, yet again I was amazed at Mr. Zyuganov, who with conviction talked about his support for private ownership. One had to remind him of a provision in his program that promises the confiscation of private property. Mr. Bashmachnikov [leader of the Association of Peasant Holdings and Agricultural Cooperatives of Russia] also said that the Communists talk about their support for private ownership in words only. But when it comes down to real actions, they have fully ruled out in their land code any real possibility of having private property.

Another important subject discussed at the meeting was the attitude toward the presidential candidates and toward Yeltsin. I was interested to see that not only Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, but also Vladimir Chub, the governor of Rostov Region, Eduard Rossel, the governor of Sverdlovsk Region, Aleksandr Belyakov, the governor of Leningrad Region, and Boris Nemtsov of Nizhniy Novgorod, voiced their unequivocal support for Yeltsin. In other words, all the present governors made their position very clear and definite. They all support President Yeltsin.

I was interested to hear General Lebed, although I thought it was strange to hear him saying he had nothing against NATO's expansion. I said I opposed that idea. In this respect I have a different view from his. As for your last question about the reasons why Clinton invited all these people, I think that he wanted to hear the whole range of views in Russia, and I told him that this was probably very sensible. The only thing is that I doubt that he will have another opportunity to come to Russia to hear out our different views should Zyuganov win the elections in June. [end recording]

Russia: TV Satire Program Features Clinton

LD2004190696

[FBIS Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 1745 GMT on 20 April carries the 10-minute satirical "Puppets" [Kukly] program, which this week includes U.S. President Bill Clinton in the cast of characters.

The story, titled "The Big Seven Meeting - As It Really Was" focuses on a plot supposedly inspired by Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, to compromise the Yeltsin regime by presenting Bill Clinton with 5 kg of plutonium at the summit.

Puppets of Boris Yeltsin, Pavel Grachev, Viktor Chernomyrdin, Aleksandr Korzhakov, Yevgeniy Primakov, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Yegor Gaydar, Mikhail Gorbachev, Aleksandr Lebed, and Yuriy Lukhkov are shown awaiting the arrival of the summit participants - the Seven Samurai, as Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's puppet dubs them.

Asked by Yeltsin's character why he arrived by parachute, Bill Clinton replies - in perfect Russian with an American accent - that one can receive a nasty bump without one.

Rounding off the story, Yeltsin saves the day by starting to eat the lump of plutonium, because, as he puts it, he is healthy, tall and good-looking and has a good diet. Clinton replies that he now knows what to do with all the nuclear waste.

Russia: Zhirinovskiy on Crime, Economy, Other Issues

LD2004154396 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0745 GMT 20 Apr 96

[From the "Parliamentary Week" program]

[FBIS Summary] The "Parliamentary Week" program presents a day-by-day review of the work of the Russian State Duma over the past week. The following matters were discussed by the Duma, with laws being passed on some of them: The Chernobyl disaster and its effects in Russia, with a call to increase financial and other state support for the people who had suffered as a result of it, a draft law on the human rights commissioner, a law on public control and openness of the coming presidential elections, a law on the indexation of pensions, a draft of the land code, a demand by the parliament to hold public mourning for the victims of the Yarishmardy tragedy in Chechnya, with a call to set up a state commission to investigate the matter and a demand that the procurator general start a criminal investigation of it, and a report by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev on the activities of the federal troops in Chechnya, after which he said he was ready to tender his resignation, but the Duma did not demand it; the Duma proposed that the president and the government set up a body to coordinate the activities of the Armed Forces and that the army should

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

have greater state financial support; the Central Bank head gave a report and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, calls for an increase in cooperation with Libya and to reduce economic sanctions against it.

In the 10-minute "Factions Platform" part of the program, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is interviewed by correspondent Yelena Ozrina in connection with his 50th birthday. He shows off the presents he has received and invites journalists to his birthday party in the "Rossiya" hotel. Zhirinovskiy says that 50 is the age of maturity and criticizes the present situation in the Russian Federation. He says that the reforms had been wrongly implemented and the people are suffering as a result, and goes on to give some advice as to what should be done to improve the situation, first of all the criminal one, saying that it is necessary "to clean up the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is corrupt and should be cleaned up and everybody in it above the rank of colonel should be sacked." Zhirinovskiy says there should be a temporary permission to shoot gangsters.

Zhirinovskiy goes on to talk about the economic situation in the country, saying that "we have sufficient grain to last only until July, but we are selling the best varieties of wheat to the Poles," and will be obliged to buy moldy American wheat later. He says that the president should not go abroad at present, and should not even travel around the country, but should stay in the Kremlin and work on bettering the country's home problems. He says: "I am appealing to the president — do not go to China, China may turn into a Foros [the island on which Gorbachev was confined during the coup] for you." He goes on to say that "the troops should not be withdrawn from Chechnya, talks should not be held, and effective measures should be used to put an end to banditry." He says the "the fifth column were the generals who had trained at Harvard," who could not carry out military operations and were traitors.

Zhirinovskiy goes on to talk about pensions, wage arrears, and wages, and says the payments were a fiction because there will not be any money to pay people after 1 July. People are not producing anything, only trading, many are becoming dependent on maintenance, there will be nobody to pay taxes and no money in the budget. And there will be more and more criminals and widespread terror in the country.

Zhirinovskiy says that "if on 16 June, somebody else besides Zyuganov or Yeltsin wins the elections he will be forced to introduce a state of emergency. Today it is already impossible to rule our country by normal methods."

The video shows Zhirinovskiy being interviewed in a study.

Russia: Communists Preach 'Civil War Philosophy'

MM2204095796 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 Apr 96 pp 1, 2

[Article by Yuriy Aleksandrov under "ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Study" rubric: "Communists Preach Civil War Philosophy"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The myth of the social democratic nature of contemporary Russian communism is quite popular among the educated Russian public. The reforms, they say, have by now thoroughly changed both the lives and consciousness of people. By way of confirmation they sight the examples of [former State Duma Speaker] Ivan Rybkin or Yegor Stroyev, the current chairman of the Federation Council, who have ultimately shown genuine realism in assessing the changes that have occurred in Russia. However, after the election platforms of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov were published, everything came full circle and the true picture emerged: It is still too early to talk of the irreversibility of Russia's democratic reforms. At least in the immediate term. It is too early because the most influential political forces in the country are advancing diametrically opposed programs and preaching antagonistic ideologies. [passage omitted]

According to the very essence of their teaching and by natural inclination Communists are revolutionaries. Consequently, they always need an enemy — both inside the country and in the world at large. Until now, according to the theory, these enemies were the national and worldwide bourgeoisie. That is to say, the Communists are always the party of civil war and global confrontation drawing on the theory of the class struggle.

Subsequently, however, the historical redundancy of the theory of class revolutions induced newly conscripted Communists to search for new, alternative versions of revolutionary ideology. Mao Zedong advanced the theory of the struggle of the "global village" against the "global city." Today the collective thought of the Zyuganovites offers to the communist movement, the Russian people, and all mankind a third version. Clearly having no theoretical projects of their own, they have literally jumped at certain — currently fashionable — superficial ideas about the paths of development of global civilization in the 21st century. These ideas, like Marxism in the past, also came to us from the West, but somehow struck a chord with the traditions of Russian social thought and with the feelings initiated way back

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

by the Slavophiles. Today they have been given a new intonation by the Russian nationalists-"etatists."

In specific terms, these ideas offer a concept of the world in the 21st century as a field of confrontation between large, self-sufficient, local civilizations locked into their own culture and religion: Western civilization, Russian, Orthodox (or Eurasian) civilization, Muslim civilization, South Asian (Hindu) civilization, and Far East (Confucian-Buddhist) civilization. From the viewpoint of Russian supporters of this theory, the clash between these civilizations will create the geopolitical picture of the future world. Consequently, they believe, it is geopolitical factors that will come to the fore in world politics and that will define the goals and tasks of each civilization and country. Geopolitical opposition will intensify as the worldwide ecological and resources crisis intensifies. Hence our "etatists" see Russia's main problem as adopting reliable positions that ensure Russia's security in the new world, which will be even more unstable than the current one.

It is these nationalist-"etatist" ideas that the Zyuganovite Communists have taken up today. At the same time they appeal to the most conservative elements of pro-state ideology, presenting them in an absolutely simplified, it may be said, primitive form. All this is expounded in detail in G. Zyuganov's book "Beyond the Horizon."

The author proposes effectively to replace the theory of the class struggle with the so-called civilization approach to the social process. Only polite bows are made toward the Marxist theory of class struggle. However, the process of the interaction of major civilizations is treated in extremely simplified form. Put simply, it is seen as something akin to the proximity of mutually hostile and clumsy bulls in a crowded china shop. Mistrust in the outside world is emphasized to extremes. This especially applies to the "predatory and far-seeing" Western civilization, which, under the cloak of panhuman values, seeks to impose its selfish interests on the rest of the world. And which is especially hostile to Russia, which has always been the bulwark of world stability and the champion of balanced interests, a barrier in the path of Western expansion.

The Russian "etatists" have not the slightest belief in Russia's ability to compete with the West on equal terms in the framework of an open world economy and global cultural intercourse. By the competitiveness of the Russian economy they understand only one thing — the need for Russia to isolate itself from the outside world, to protect itself (according to G. Zyuganov) from "foreign do-gooders" who have never done anything but "rob us blind." We should throw all our forces into the consolidation of a "Great Power" — a state that dominates society, that subordinates all its forces to increasing its own might. And once having gained strength, we must restore the "bipolar" structure of the world, that is to say, the system of global military-political confrontation between Russia and the West. That same system in which the USSR has once already overstretched itself. Methods of world relations other than those based on recreating a "military stronghold" are not suggested.

It is hard to say what predominates here: fear of the outside world, or mistrust of their own people. But, let us repeat, the views (including the arguments about "the powerful state," "communality," and "togetherness") that G. Zyuganov likes to misuse so much were not born within the communist movement. They are borrowed in a still more simplified form than that in which they existed originally. And this reflects the crisis of communist ideology. The communist movement, both in Russia and in the rest of the world, has already outlived orthodox Marxist theory of proletarian internationalism and worldwide socialist revolution. Back under Stalin our own, Soviet, communism began its rapid transformation into national communism. Today it is completing this process, increasingly appealing to social and moral anachronisms, to the value system of the pre-industrial, peasant society which in the briefest of historical periods was transformed into a society of state-dependent proletarians.

Thus it is no accident that both G. Zyuganov and [Kemerovo Oblast Duma Chairman] A. Tuleyev "know nothing" about Stalin's mass repressions. Stalin is for them an ideal figure; it is to Stalin that they look as their spiritual precursor. They appeal to his personality over the heads of the "agents of influence of the Western special services" such as Khrushchev and "Gorbachev's defilers" (again according to G. Zyuganov) of the Soviet communist idea. This is at the same time both a tribute to spiritual kinship and a convenient opportunity for restoring to the history of our country and the world in a positive form the party leader renowned as one of the greatest despots of the 20th century.

Today's Communists are a little more modest in their scale. They speak about the "second wind" of world socialism, since they do not believe in the prosperous future of democratic values and the open world economy. They do no believe in the fact that these values are capable of surviving the global ecological and resources crisis which they claim is inevitably replacing them with social systems based on the principles of the centralized distribution of economic resources and vital assets. At any rate, the Communists hope that this will prove the case. Socialism will triumph not as a result of a process of modernization but on the basis of the uni-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

versal dwindling of resources and the growth of world poverty.

In the final analysis, to accept the theory of class struggle or that of the clash of civilizations is not entirely the task of just the Communists themselves. It is in society's interest that the philosophy of civil war become obsolete. That there be no swelling of the ranks of those who are dragging Russia backward into prehistory, who are trying their utmost to supplant concrete plans for the development of an effective economic system allied to a rule-of-law state and a socially protected society with calls for recreating "great-power might" and with G. Zyuganov's ideas about the "idealism" and "spiritual purity" of our people, their "impulses of the heart" that triumph over "the arguments of reason." In Russian history this has always developed into the oppression of the people and a socially privileged position for the ruling strata.

Russia: Luzhkov on Critical Attitude to Reforms

964F1836A Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian 7-14 Apr 96 No 14, p 9

[Interview with Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov by MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI Editor in Chief Viktor Loshak; place and date not given; under the rubric "First Persons": "'The Authorities' Job Is To Serve"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This conversation could be called "on-the-go." We started it in Yuriy Mikhaylovich's Volga on the way to the airport, and finished on the plane on the return trip from Kazan, where the mayor attended the president of Tatarstan's inauguration. Another reason I had to conduct the interview in such special conditions is because a car and an airplane are probably the only places where Luzhkov can be found alone for any length of time.

[Loshak] I have known you for many years and can testify that to find you alone is a miracle. What about yourself—do you not want to be alone sometimes? Generally speaking, do you not miss solitude?

[Luzhkov] This is an impossible dream. But I have a dual feeling about it: On one hand, I want to stop and contemplate, at least look at my life once again not from the position of momentary matters. Such problems as the philosophy of authority, the principles of organizing management systems—these are things that interest me most right now. The current habits of both the people and the authorities must be radically changed. The authorities' job is to serve, not to rule.

But on the other hand, solitude sometimes scares me. I work in my office, and if I do not see the door opening for five minutes or do not get a telephone call, I start worrying: Has something happened? Maybe they do not want to tell me about some major mishap in the city?

[Loshak] From Zhvanetskiy's philosophical principles: "Do not interfere with my solitude—do not leave me alone."

[Luzhkov] Just some inner anxiety that for some reason people do not need me right now. A terrible feeling! Of course, there are inner contradictions in any person that sometimes reach the point of the absurd: You want to have time to contemplate the meaning of your life, but on the other hand it is absolutely impossible to be alone in this rush.

[Loshak] Not many people remember that you are the person who opened the door to new market relations in the country. Remember the Moscow City Soviet commission on cooperatives and individual labor activities—your commission? You began with people who baked pirozhki and repaired bicycles, and they grew up and became big capitalists and bankers. How do you see it now—for whom and what did you open that door?

[Luzhkov] There is no simple answer, and there cannot be. There are no ideal pictures and ideal systems in any state going through a transition period. Yes, I did take part in it, and do not regret it. I do not regret it because what we unleashed was not just inequality between people (from the standpoint of religious philosophy, this is not something to be proud of). We managed to accomplish two things, which were crucial in changing our entire society so fast: We awakened initiative and fuller utilization of one's abilities and talent. Everything that has happened over this short period of time is an indicator of the load the authorities carried in organizing this radical revolution in the economy. Can I say that I am deeply and absolutely satisfied? Categorically—no. Negative initiative and criminal talent have also surfaced. Our misfortune is not that we got all this: There was no question that as we unshackled society, the criminal factor would be unleashed as well. Our misfortune and fault is that we exacerbated this factor by our government decisions. For instance, everything that was done in the privatization area. A huge criminal environment formed around the free-of-charge transfer of property. And second: As the crime wave swelled, we needed to take measures protecting society from this explosion.

[Loshak] Looking back at those 10 years, which of your decisions would you withdraw?

[Luzhkov] I would withdraw my support for some monopoly structures in Moscow. They were egotistic and remain so. Their egotism at the initial stage was

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

in the awareness that the city authorities did not have the right to quickly convert them to the status of nongovernment or private. Having kept these structure as they were, we created their diktat in operations and price- formation. I nurtured them like a mother, with a creator's blind love. Nevertheless, somehow we missed the point where the construction complex needed to be demonopolized and competitive beginnings expanded. The second thing I would, of course, do differently now would be the development of the commercial market. It has now become strong and robust, but it is also chaotic and dangerous. Dangerous in a sense of being unpredictable with regard to what kind of "surprises" it may present us with.

[Loshak] You mean the foodstuffs market?

[Luzhkov] Yes, numerous entrepreneurs jumped into its commercial vortex, which in sum brought us market saturation, but we did not get a balanced structure. Everything works by the "supplier--retail" system, without a wholesale link, which is very dangerous. We began introducing it, but belatedly.

[Loshak] Lately, you have been forcefully and sharply criticizing both Chernomyrdin and the government. Many notice not the substance of the criticism but rather the unusual violation of hierarchical subordination. What are the problems?

[Luzhkov] You see, there are principal issues that I can never accept, understand, or support. They lie in the area of the strategy of economic development of Russia. Let us leave aside privatization, which essentially is a big mistake on the part of the state. Let us start with the tax and customs system. Tell me, why do we need the Ministry of the Economy? What is it—a new Gosplan [State Planning Committee]? Is it an organization that apportions the budget? Because apportioning it—especially if the State Duma, the Federation Council, and president's staff participate—is not a complicated matter, I would say. The authorities must conduct a sensible tax and price policy. The authorities must put pressure on monopolists, setting price on items that are most vital for the economy. For instance, on fuel and power generation, rail transportation, raw materials, and so on. Do we have such a policy?! Are you aware of it?! I will not even mention that we should get from the authorities a philosophy of shifting the tax burden from the goods producer to real estate, to land, to fixed assets, so that an entrepreneur pays for wealth, not for what he produces for the needs of the population. When you are paying for wealth in any form and do not tax the production of clothes or foodstuffs, society reacts quickly and very subtly to these changes.

We do not have a tax policy in our country. Are we supposed to stay quiet about this? Or take custom duties—this strangles our integration into the world community. They do not protect our producers. Our customs duty is a supplement to the national budget. A nice but meaningless supplement. The country's stability is the stability of economic criteria. We must know that during a certain period custom duties will not change, and when they do, it will be timed to a clearly set date. The authorities and the government are underdeveloped; there should be a powerful agency in the country—a committee for tax and customs policy. Our main agency in the economy today, however, is the Ministry of Finance... But it already has to deal with the consequences of a poorly working system.

[Loshak] In the previous issue of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI we criticized the Antitrust Committee for permitting the rates for long-distance telephone calls to rise monthly. But it turned out that the criticism was misdirected: By a government decision, a number of monopolies, such as communications, practically oversee themselves.

[Luzhkov] This is outrageous and confirms once again that we do not have a structure of authority that solves economic problems in the state.

[Loshak] If it so happens that the Communists come to power in the country...

[Luzhkov] It cannot be ruled out.

[Loshak] ...but, in my opinion, Luzhkov will undoubtedly remain the mayor of Moscow; is your cooperation with the Zyuganovites possible in such a case?

[Luzhkov] This is difficult to imagine. We such interaction with Gorbachev, when everything was permeated by a spirit of mutual dislike. This time everything will be different. Gorbachev was incapable of anything. He could not do a thing, but these people will have a much greater ability to turn things back. First, these are people who got started long before Gorbachev and have acquired tremendous experience. Second, these are people with very clear reactionary goals—to take the country back to pre-Gorbachev times. So, let us not entertain any illusions that it will be easier or the same as with Gorbachev. It will be more difficult.

[Loshak] Under the Communists, Moscow, which does not support them, could become a rebellious territory of capitalist revolution.

[Luzhkov] Are you asking whether capitalism can win in one isolated city?

[Loshak] Is it impossible?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Luzhkov] Of course. At first, everything will be relatively calm, but in the end, only the rudiments of a free market will remain. And speaking of political freedoms, there will be nothing left of them. Right now is precisely the moment when the country can shift either in the direction of a communist dictatorship or make the final step to the level of democratic states. The in-between, being a state of disequilibrium, simply cannot continue for long.

Communist Party authority is impossible in the conditions of a market economy, because market proponents will not obey them, and will have to be destroyed. It is hard to imagine the method of eliminating them, but I think that, by historical analogy, it is not going to be gentle. As to freedom, it is rather easy to get rid of it by scaring the bulk of the population, through a powerful campaign of slander and provocations with respect to leaders. Everything will quickly return to 1934-1937.

[Loshak] Not only as a journalist but also as a Muscovite, I can see how much you manage to handle. How do you structure your year, month, day?

[Luzhkov] I unfailingly start my work day at 0830. Of course, I can afford to come in at 1000, too, but my schedule sets the discipline for the rest of the structure working with me. There is an operational calendar of mayoral work—this is a very strict system. For instance, every Monday I hold operational meetings; every Tuesday I discuss issues at government meetings; and, for instance, every Saturday I have time set aside for touring city facilities. Going one step up, in March, for instance, I have to make a decision on the city's preparations for winter. In March! And also in March I have to decide questions of organizing summer recreation for children. That is, it is a whole system, in which if you forget something, you get behind, and it is practically impossible to catch up. On a personal level—first, mandatory physical exercise. Wednesday and Saturday, before work—soccer. On Monday, after work—tennis. I consider it a must—but it does not always happen—to be home by 2100. I have to spend some time with my children, because later they will already be in bed. Daddy must be there early enough to give his daughters a bath (they are two and four). After that, I go back to work and finish at about 0030-0100. I almost always look through the mail at home, in the evening, after the children are asleep. I do this so that I do not clutter my head during the day with papers. Daytime is mainly for operational tasks. It is a complex system, and you are tempted to break out of it, but without it my work will not have an organizational basis.

[Loshak] Tsereteli, Glazunov, Mikhalkov, Shilov... Many notice not only that they actively seek your favor but also your own search, of sorts, for Moscow's own ideology or line in the national culture.

[Luzhkov] No, this is not a search for a philosophers stone in culture. Everything is much more simple: I defer to creative people. The task of the authorities is to simply not get in their way, and to solve their everyday problems. Such a relationship is very important for Russia. The French have a word for it— "cohabitation," which means not so much direct collaboration as sharing the area of interaction.

[Loshak] Do you have old friends? Who are they?

[Luzhkov] My oldest friend is Iosif Volchok. We started together as young specialists way back in the plastics research institute. He is now an entrepreneur. But if you ask who is my most loyal and devoted friend—it is, of course, my wife. I am a lucky man.

[Loshak] What are your grown-up sons doing?

[Luzhkov] The youngest one is about to become a bachelor of economics. He is studying abroad but is planning to work here. The older one has his own business. What precisely, I do not know. I warned my relatives: Do not bring your personal stuff to me.

[Loshak] About three years ago in a conversation you promised to do everything possible to at least shield your family from public attention. Have you succeeded?

[Luzhkov] Yes, my family is taboo for journalists and television cameras. I hope that nobody has sneaked in and nobody will. This is my island. And Lena, my wife, is great about it—she does not want to stick out. She says: I am a woman; I want to go to theaters, stores, and simply walk in the street, and I do not at all want to be recognized and pointed out. She manages a lot: She raises our two girls and runs her own manufacturing business—production of plastic press-forms.

[Loshak] You recently mentioned that you have not touched alcohol for 23 years. What happened 23 years ago?

[Luzhkov] I had a serious heart attack, and also weighed 105 kg [232 lb]. The doctors said: You need a regimen. Remember Melnikov-Pechersky's book "In the Forests"—about old believers? I was reading it at the time. Their principles—no smoking, no drinking, hard work—rather naturally fit my plans.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russia: Grachev Resignation Offer to Duma Discussed

LD1904220496 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 19 Apr 96

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pavel Grachev could be described as the hero of the day at today's State Duma session. The minister, summoned to the Duma session in connection with the tragic events in Chechnya, said that he was ready to resign. He will do it if deputies decide that he is responsible for everything that is taking place in the army and in the country. The deputies did not insist on his resignation, however.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The deputies strayed from the agenda and began a resolute discussion of the tragedy which took place in Chechnya on 16 April. The Duma decided that it was not enough just to discuss it — a resolution must be adopted. An additional interval was even announced so that the deputies could discuss all the proposals in the factions.

When they returned into the chamber, the parliamentarians had a very heated discussion and proposals of the most varied nature were made, including a suggestion that Chechnya be deprived of the status of a republic, calls to the Russian Government to resign, and a proposal for the Duma to work overtime.

[Anatoliy Lukyanov of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, speaking from rostrum] The Duma should work in a restrained and measured manner and, most important, it should discuss all urgent issues facing it.

[Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, speaking from the rostrum] In the same quiet manner you lost the USSR — you were working quietly and now look at the results. That's why we are a different faction and a different party. If we fail to adopt a package of urgent measures, other people in another parliament will work quietly. We must demand that the generals and commanders of our troops in Chechnya resign immediately. The Tsar would have torn their stripes off and reduced them to the ranks. Honest officers and generals would have committed suicide.

[Roman Popkovich, of the Our Home is Russia parliamentary faction, speaking from the rostrum] The events that happened were a consequence both of the growing aggressiveness of [Dzhokhar] Dudayev's side and of the gross mistakes made by the Russian military command while carrying out the plan of the peace settlement of the Chechen crisis.

[Vladimir Lukin, Yabloko parliamentary faction, speaking from the rostrum] The time has come for the president to take a resolute action in Chechnya. Mr. President: If you want to remove obstacles in the way of resolving the matter here in Moscow, in the country, the time has come.

[Correspondent] The deputies adopted the final version of the resolution by proposing that Boris Yeltsin should announce mourning, set up a state commission to investigate the cause of the death of the Russian servicemen, and decide by 15 May who among top officials was responsible for what happened. Obviously, however, the deputies did not think the resolution was enough. It was decided to call Pavel Grachev to answer. The defense minister came to the Duma in the evening, told the deputies the details of the tragedy, and announced that criminal proceedings had been instituted against the commander of the 245th regiment. He has been removed from office and a team from the military procuracy is currently working in the regiment.

During the discussion, however, some interesting details of the defense minister's actions to carry out the president's peace plan were revealed.

[Grachev, addressing the Duma] The troops were in direct contact — I could not stop military operations and expose soldiers to militants' bullets. Therefore military operations continued until 6 April — that is, until the moment when the situation became more or less favorable for a cease-fire. On 6 April, although military operations should have continued — this is my firm belief, it may be wrong, I don't know, but these events are closer to me than to some deputies — I gave orders in writing. It is my duty as a soldier to carry out this plan of peace settlement. But in my personal opinion, as a military man, judging by the results of the reconnaissance data in Chechnya, the plan yet again gives the Dudayevites an opportunity to organize themselves, rally their forces, and engage in military operations — and they have proved that.

[Deputy Yuriy Shchekochikhin] Haven't you thought of resigning?

[Grachev] If you, people's deputies, consider that all the shocking things occurring in our country, and in particular in the army, and the losses being sustained by the federal troops depend only on the personality of the defense minister, I am ready, even right now, to resign.

[Correspondent] The Duma, however, which on many occasions in the past demanded from the president that Grachev should resign, did not react in any way to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the minister's words today. And Pavel Grachev left the chamber in peace. [end recording]

Military Issues

Russia: Grachev: Moscow To Boost Conscription Campaign

LD1804171496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1602 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Itar-Tass) — Some 200,000 conscripts are to join the Russian army this spring, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said today in a concluding address to a meeting of military commissaries.

He said only volunteers serving under contracts would be sent to hotshot regions from now on.

After federal troops pull out of Chechnya, only volunteer soldiers and sergeants will remain there.

Grachev said starters without a six-month background of training or army specialties would not be sent to units assigned to dangerous missions.

As for the staffing of the army and navy, Grachev said the conscription would continue under the current military service laws.

However, Grachev did not rule out that the State Duma would soon pass a law to introduce alternative civil service. Grachev said the alternative service should be exterritorial and two times longer than active service.

According to Grachev, the alternative service is not to interests of the state but is rather used in political struggle for public opinion.

He cited as an indication of this an unspecified poll in Russian regions which found only 350 conscripts to welcome alternative service.

Grachev said draft dodging remains a problem, with dodgers of 18 to 28 years of age now numbering 31,000.

Grachev said a substantial number of conscripts have various diseases. He claimed the medical profession assisted many dodgers in disease simulation.

Only eight of 100 Moscow's conscripts join army ranks, while the figures are 98 in Spain and 78 in Italy, Grachev said.

He said independent medical teams found an overwhelming majority of conscripts in the Ulyanovsk region to be fit for service in army and navy units, while local medical services had provided 60 per cent of them with various papers certifying non-eligibility for service.

Grachev said some 61,000 conscripts joining the army last year had deficient body weight. He complained that nutritional supplementation was a difficult problem, with underfunded military food programmes.

Grachev said the conscription plan of this spring would be met. He called for assistance of the Russian government and regional authorities to the conscription campaign.

The Russian president's economics aide Aleksandr Livshits has spoken at the meeting.

Federal Assembly

Russia: Duma Urges Yeltsin To Set Up Armed Forces Controlling Body

LD1904144496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 19 (INTERFAX) — The Russian State Duma has urged Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the government to set up a body that would coordinate and control the activity of the federal Armed Forces.

A motion to this effect drew support from 313 deputies at today's Duma session.

"The current indifference shown the Army by some sections of society, Duma members included, and disastrously meagre funding may lead to the total disintegration of the Russian Army," head of the Duma Committee for Defense, Gen. Lev Rokhlin, representing the Russia Is Our Home faction in the Duma, has said.

The message to the president contains a proposal to devise a mechanism for funding the Armed Forces to maintain a balance between army requirements and budget appropriations for its needs.

The Duma also deems it necessary to make the armed forces' composition and numerical strength match what Russia needs and what it can afford.

Russia: Duma To Discuss Yeltsin Initiatives on Chechen Settlement

LD1904141396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 19 (INTERFAX) — The heads of all factions in the Russian State Duma want to discuss the peace initiatives on Chechnya announced March 31 by President Boris Yeltsin at the next plenary meeting of the parliament chamber, head of the Duma Security Committee Viktor Ilyukhin (of the Russian Communist Party) and deputy Roman

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Popkovich (Russia Is Our Home faction) told a Duma plenary meeting Friday.

"Many of the so-called peace initiatives seem ambiguous and unclear," they said.

Russia: Duma Resolution on Ambush; Zhirinovskiy Questions Grachev

LD1904150796 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1320 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Now it is time for me to hand over to my colleague Aleksandr Ruvinskiy. Good evening, Aleksandr.

[Ruvinskiy] I am at the State Duma. We have already reported that events developed fairly stormily here. The deputies altered today's agenda and spent almost half of the session discussing the recent tragic events in Chechnya. After the debate the State Duma adopted a resolution, which was read out by Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the committee on security:

[Begin Ilyukhin recording] On 16 April 1996 a heinous crime was committed in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation. Armed formations of Chechen separatists savagely murdered a large number of Russian servicemen. This, the latest act in the series of bloody events on the territory of the Chechen Republic, was a consequence of irresponsibility on the part of military chiefs and an intolerably dangerous attitude to the Army by the country's leadership.

Having evaluated this event as a tragedy for the entire country and expressing profound condolences to the relatives and friends of those who died, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation resolves:

1. To consider it essential to declare state mourning throughout the Russian Federation for those who were murdered on 16 April 1996 and for all the servicemen of Russia and civilians who have died in the Chechen conflict, and to ask the president and government of the Russian Federation to issue the necessary legal enactments and to take corresponding measures;

2. The president of the Russian Federation should establish a state commission to investigate the tragic events that occurred in the Chechen Republic on 16 April 1996. The commission should include representatives of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. Once the investigation has been completed, he should resolve by 15 May 1996 the question of responsibility borne by top officials of the Russian Federation;

3. The prosecutor general of the Russian Federation is to be asked to institute criminal proceedings over the tragic events of 16 April 1996;

4. A report by the defense minister of the Russian Federation on the circumstances surrounding the death of servicemen in the Chechen Republic is to be heard immediately at a plenary session of the State Duma of the Russian Federation. [end recording]

It should be said that the resolution was passed with the agreement of all the factions in the State Duma. The defene minister and Pavel Golubets [name as heard], the Interior Ministry head of the chiefs of staff, arrived here literally one hour ago. They gave the details of the tragedy that took place in Shatoy district, when a military supply convoy was travelling through a gorge and was ambushed by the rebels. According to the Defense Ministry, 53 people were killed and 52 injured. Hardware losses came to 21 transport vehicles, one tank and six APC's. An investigation is now under way and the regimental commander, who was in charge of the convoy, is facing charges.

And there was another tragedy this morning. A group of rebels attacked an outpost of the 66th regiment, that's an Interior Ministry outpost, and here again the federal forces sustained losses. Since 1 April, a total of 122 servicemen have died in Chechnya. This was announced today.

During the debate the defense minister was asked numerous questions, and in particular whether he would resign. This is what he said:

[Begin recording] [Grachev] As regards my resignation, if you, people's deputies, consider that the defense minister is personally responsible for the outrages taking place in this country and in the army in particular and for the losses that the federal forces are sustaining, then I am ready to resign right now.

Deputy Zhirinovskiy, go ahead, I'm ready to answer your question.

[Zhirinovskiy] I'll start from the end. If this minister goes, nothing will change. The entire government should go and the entire political leadership with it. Pavel Sergeyevich, I don't want you to quit, I want you to convince the country's top politicians that they need to immediately impose censorship there on journalists and not let a single one in. Tell the troops to act in accordance with the situation. You've got enough shells and enough troops to impose order there. If you manage to do that, as you always do, then you'll get a hero's medal. And if you don't, well, this is what you should do: tell us straight why the general staff and the Defense Ministry don't know how to fight the rebels [Russian:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

basmachi]. What did your generals graduate from Harvard for? The Americans haven't got a Caucasus-style nationalities problem. They go and fight on other people's territory. What did your generals learn over there? So come clean. If you still can't sort out the Caucasus, then you should sort out the general staff instead. There's a fifth column among our top army brass, and you should get rid of it. [end recording]

So it was quite a lively debate and I think it will continue for the next few days.

[Announcer] Thank you, Aleksandr Ruvinskiy. I think we need a postscript here. Take a look at the history of the conflicts in Chechnya. The first time round, it took half a century to impose order there. And it still didn't stick. That's an answer to Vladimir Volfovich [Zhirinovskiy]. It didn't turn out as expected. If you'd read our own Russian history, you would have seen the answer long ago.

Russia: Duma Summons Grachev, Kulikov to 19 Apr Session

LD1904114296 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma has decided to hear the defense minister on the circumstances in connection with the attack on the Russian convoy in Chechnya. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov are expected to come to the Duma today at about 1600 hours [1200 GMT].

Russia: Deputies Call For Legal Action Over Chechen Killings

LD1904115696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0950 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 19 (INTERFAX) — Eight Duma deputies, members of Democratic Choice of Russia, called on law-makers Friday to request the Prosecutor General's Office to institute criminal proceedings over the large-scale killing of federal servicemen on April 16 in Chechnya.

A group statement, circulated at the State Duma by group coordinator Sergey Yushenkov, stressed that the parliament "had a chance to stop the senseless manslaughter in Chechnya with laws. However, the party of war, represented in the State Duma mostly by the Liberal-Democratic faction, blocked the laws and voted against the dismissal of the chief culprits in the war — Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, head of the presidential administration, ex-minister of nationalities Nikolay Yegorov and Secretary of the Security Council Oleg Lobov."

The deputies called on their sober-minded colleagues "not to yield to provocations of supporters of combat operations, who want to use the tragedy for their selfish political goals."

Russia: Grachev Admits Military Mistakes in Chechen Ambush

LD1904142096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 19 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Defence minister Pavel Grachev put the death toll of Russian servicemen in the Tuesday ambush in Chechnya at 53 killed and 52 wounded and admitted that the tragedy was caused by mistakes of the military leadership.

"On the part of the leadership of the united group of the federal forces in Chechnya and the command of the 245th rifle regiment of the Moscow district violations have been made regarding the preparations and progress of the convoy which was attacked near the settlement of Yarush-Mardy", Grachev told the State Duma on Friday.

He said 53 servicemen were killed and 52 wounded in the ambush.

Chechen separatists ambushed the convoy of the 245th regiment which carried "material and technical means", the minister said.

The convoy consisted of 199 servicemen, including 20 officers, 30 vehicles, including three tanks, one APC and one KAMAZ heavy truck, one demining vehicle, one reconnaissance and one towing vehicle.

The separatists attacked the convoy with grenade launchers, flash throwers and mine throwers. The first vehicle was hit immediately and the commander of the convoy was killed and communications were disrupted.

An armoured convoy was sent to help the ambushed servicemen and the combat lasted for two hours. 21 vehicles in the convoy were destroyed, according to the minister.

Grachev said the commander of the 245th rifle regiment had been suspended and criminal charges had been brought against him.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Regional Affairs

Russia: Duma Investigation Seeks 'Those Responsible' for Chechen Deaths

MK2004110096 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Ivan Rodin: "G-7 Leaders Witness Yet Another Political Scandal in Moscow"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday the State Duma forsook quiet lawmaking and got down to investigating the reasons for the deaths of Russian servicemen in an ambush laid for them by Chechen rebels on 16 April. The Duma also wanted to find those responsible for the tragedy. This procedure was put off until the evening, and the deputies spent the entire first half of the day discussing the text of their resolution on these problems.

Also in the morning, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy attempted to raise a scandal at the meeting; he linked the death of the servicemen in Chechnya to the Moscow meeting of the leaders of the world's major states. He called them thugs and underworld kingpins and accused them of gathering in the capital of Russia to discuss how they should go about plundering and destroying this country. Mr. Zhirinovskiy has repeatedly called for a struggle against the "fifth column" and again had a harsh word to say about Harvard University, where, in his view, both military and political leaders of Russia undergo training.

The Communists proposed that the shares of responsibility of the supreme commander in chief and all his subordinates for the developments of 16 April be determined and some of them be summoned right away to the current meeting, for instance, Pavel Grachev and Anatoliy Kulikov. Yesterday the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] faction also finally outlined its official view on the possibility of a no-confidence vote in the Chernomyrdin government. It turned out that the Communists plan to give thought to this problem some time in mid-May, when the premier is scheduled to read out at the Duma his report on the execution of the budget in the first quarter of 1996. For the time being, the Communists point out, the Duma should work in a calm and balanced fashion.

The question of no confidence in the government was raised yesterday once again by the Yabloko faction, which had long ago collected its members' signatures under a call to discharge the cabinet, but that number of signatures is insufficient, while no new ones have been added to the list. Nor did they win any yesterday: Vladimir Lukin's proposal fell on deaf ears, and except for the Communists, who frankly voiced their refusal, no other faction expressed its attitude to the idea of a no-confidence vote. In another development, all the factions agreed that following the 16 April goings-on in Chechnya it is necessary to call a national day of mourning. [passage omitted]

Russia: Grachev 'Ready To Resign' if Blamed for Chechen Ambush

LD1904131496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1300 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Igor Zhukov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Apr — "If deputies feel that all the blame for what is happening lies with me, I am ready to resign," Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told the ITAR-TASS correspondent in connection with the State Duma's discussion of the recent attack on a convoy of federal troops in Chechnya.

"What happened in Chechnya on 16 April is a huge tragedy for all Russians, first and foremost for the Russian Armed Forces," he stated.

Russia: Grachev Appeals for 'Understanding' Over Chechen Tragedy

LD1904133796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1245 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Zhukov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Apr — Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev delivered a report in the State Duma today on the causes and consequences of the tragic events in the Shatoy District of Chechnya on 16 April, when dozens of Russian servicemen died as a result of being attacked by Chechen fighters. The defense minister informed the parliamentarians of the details of the incident and asked the deputies to be "understanding" in their attitude toward the difficulties which the federal troops are encountering in Chechnya.

"Despite the fact that a peace plan for settling the Chechen crisis has been announced, dozens of our comrades are continuing to die in Chechnya," the Russian defense minister stated. "This is a big tragedy for us," he said.

At present the deputies are discussing the defense minister's speech. Some parliamentarians think it possible that the State Duma might even consider the question of the defense minister's dismissal.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russia: Grachev: Troops Not Told of Yeltsin Peace Order Until 6 Apr

LD1904145496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1405 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Natalya Panshina, Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 19 Apr — The federal troops were informed on 6 April of the order of the Russian President Boris Yeltsin to stop the military activities in Chechnya from 0000 hrs on 1 April, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told today at the sitting of the State Duma. He was summoned to the Duma to inform the deputies about the details of the tragic death of a large group of servicemen near the village of Yaryshmardy. [passage omitted]

Russia: Grachev Says Yeltsin's Peace Plan Increases Losses in Chechnya

LD1904151396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1459 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By Natalia Panshina and Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 19 (Itar-Tass) — "President's Yeltsin's order to cease military operations in Chechnya at midnight on April 1 was brought to the notice of federal troops on April 6," said Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, addressing lawmakers of the State Duma today who invited Grachev to inform them about the circumstances of the tragic death of a large group of servicemen in the area of the settlement of Yaryshmardy.

Grachev said that a unilateral ceasefire by the federal forces might render them exposed to strikes and therefore "they had been in direct contact" with militants until April 6. Commenting on his attitude to the plan for peaceful settlement in Chechnya, Grachev said that as a soldier, he has to fulfill it. At the same time, Grachev stressed that as a result of the realization of the peace plan, Dudayev's militants might recover strength and continue large- scale military operations in future.

Grachev said that "irretrievable losses" suffered by federal troops in Chechnya since the peace plan was announced reached 122 men, including 104 in the armed forces and the rest in the Interior troops. According to Grachev, 53 servicemen were killed and 52 injured when Chechen militants attacked a convoy of federal troops on April 16.

"If all the losses suffered by the army depend on the minister, I am ready to go," Grachev said.

Russia: Grachev Says Chechen Peace Plan Allows Rebels To Regroup

LD1904164296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1513 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 19 (Interfax) — The plan for peace settlement in Chechnya allows separatist militants to regroup themselves and replenish their strength, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said in the State Duma, Russian parliament's lower chamber, Friday.

However, Grachev said he had to implement the Chechnya peace plan "as a soldier."

He said he did not oppose peace settlement in the breakaway republic, "but there are bandit formations of irreconcilable (separatists) in Chechnya who have not renounced combat actions, and who need to be finished off and annihilated."

When deciding to bring federal troops to Chechnya, the Russian Security Council "did its best to prevent combat actions," Grachev said. He quoted Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev as telling him at their personal meeting in the village of Sleptsovskaya that "even if he (Dudayev) was ready to prevent military actions, his entourage was against that. And that is why he could not rule out combat operations and casualties."

There are supporters of a peace settlement in Chechnya among State Duma deputies, Grachev said. The peace process in Chechnya actually began in June 1995 when "initiative groups for peace talks were being formed," he said. Grachev said he had warned at the time that separatists could use these talks "to cure themselves, increase their number and then gather another deadly harvest."

Grachev said that he could not immediately begin implementing the Russian president's decree to end combat operations from midnight March 31 because troops were "in direct touch" with Dudayev militants. To order ending combat actions would have meant "to expose my troops to attack, which I naturally could not have done," Grachev said.

"Combat actions can be ended immediately when both parties agree on their cessation," but "the (Yeltsin) decree had a hard time getting through to Dudayev," Grachev said.

"Combat actions lasted until April 6 when the situation became more favorable" after which a corresponding order was given to Russian troops, he said.

"I regret that I was not given an opportunity to fight off the remaining bandit groups," Grachev said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

When Duma deputy Yuriy Schekochikhin asked him if he ever had a desire to resign, Grachev said that "if you, people's deputies, believe that all disgraceful happenings which are now taking place in the country and the casualties which federal forces are suffering hinge solely on the persona of the defense minister, I am ready to resign even now."

Liberal Democratic Party of Russia leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy responded to this that "nothing will change" if the defense minister resigned. "The entire government and the entire political leadership need to go" so that something will change, Zhirinovskiy said.

Addressing Grachev, Zhirinovskiy said, "I do not want you to go. I want you to convince the country's top leadership that censorship should be introduced for journalists, that none of them should be allowed there (to Chechnya) and that troops should be ordered to act according to the situation."

"You have enough shells and enough troops to bring about order there," Zhirinovskiy told Grachev. He also advised Grachev "to remove the 'fifth column' among our army's top generals."

"The army has never been taught to wage war on its territory," Grachev replied.

Russia: Yeltsin Announces Contact With Chechen Separatists

LD2104144796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1257 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Interfax) — Contacts with Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev have been established, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told a press conference in the Kremlin Sunday.

Tatar President Mintimer Shaimiyev, renown human rights activist Yuri Orlov and King of Morocco Hasan II have agreed to act as mediators between Russian authorities and the separatists, he said.

"The main issue, on which they have to influence Dudayev is Chechnya staying within Russia," Yeltsin said. "However, this is what Dudayev disagrees with."

Military operations in Chechnya have been on a standstill since March 31, he said. Nineteen out of 22 districts of the republic have signed peace deals with federal authorities, "and only three are ruled by the bandits who spoil local civilians' life."

Russia: Tatar President Hails Clinton's Efforts To Free Plane Crew

LD2004205496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KAZAN, April 20 (Interfax) — The international influence, high prestige and authority of the United States in the world, as well as personal efforts of U.S. President Bill Clinton, must lead to a release of the Russian plane crew held by the Taleban Afghan opposition movement, Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev said in a letter to Clinton Saturday.

In the letter, Shaymiyev thanked Clinton for his participation in deciding the destiny of the crew and pointed to the extremely stern stand of the Taleban leadership, which is the main obstacle to the hostages' release, Tatarstan presidential press office told Interfax.

Actions of protest by the governments of the United States and Russia, by the international community and Tatarstan will contribute to a resolution of the issue and the Russian plane crew will be released from the "senseless captivity," reads the letter.

The Il-76 plane with seven members of the crew, owned by the Aerostan private Tatarstan airline, was held by Taleban on August 3, 1995, as it was carrying ammunition from Tirana (Albania) to Kabul. The plane had been earlier leased to the Afghan government. Talks with the Taleban leadership on the hostages' release have not produced results so far.

Economic Issues

Russia: Dubinin Denies IMF To Freeze Funds After U.S. Talks

LD2204054496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0436 GMT 22 Apr 96

[By Andrey Loshchilin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON, April 22 (ITAR-TASS) — "Our efforts to reform radically the Russian economy were praised by G7 representatives," said here on Sunday Russian Central Bank governor Sergey Dubinin after a meeting with the finance ministers of the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada.

The Washington talks, held in the framework of the spring session of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, were also attended by Russian Finance and Economics ministers Vladimir Panskov and Yevgeniy Yasin.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Dubinin refuted some press reports that granting of funds to Russia out of the 10.2-billion-dollar credit, extended by the IMF in March, will be frozen, since Moscow has not fulfilled some budget and foreign trade obligations.

"The fund's mission is fully satisfied with progress in the bilateral programme," the governor said, replying to reporters' questions. "We shall receive another tranche."

It is expected that the size of this part of the credit, which is to be transferred to Russia by the end of April, will amount to 340 million dollars.

Turning to a deferral of payments on Russian foreign debts, Dubinin expressed hope that an appropriate agreement will be signed by the Paris Club of leading world creditors and the Russian government "already next week". "We are at the final stage of discussions," the governor noted.

The question on restructuring the Russian foreign debt will be discussed at a meeting of the Paris Club to be held on April 25-26. Moscow pushes for changing the schedule of payments of debts, inherited by Russia mostly from the former Soviet Union, for a midterm (supposedly 25-year) period.

Russia: Moscow Seen Planning More Steps To Curtail Food Imports

MK2004093196 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 19 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Volynets: "Drumsticks and Other Types of Food"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The precedent created by the ban on the importation of American chicken legs sparked by the violation of sanitary norms is being taken a step further. Viktor Chernomyrdin told a government meeting yesterday that a series of tough measures are to be taken before 1 June to protect the Russian market against imported food of inferior quality — that is to say, to use to the hilt technical barriers to benefit national producers.

The government course set early in the year to protect [Russian] producers against competition from foreign food producers seems to remain unchanged. The first sign of that was the ban on the importation of American chicken legs, which ostensibly do not match Russian sanitary standards. Although the conflict was settled to the satisfaction of both sides, the earlier amount of chicken meat will hardly be imported again. Hard on the heels of the conflict followed a ban on imports of minced and mechanically cut meat, semifinished raw-meat-based products, and eggs. Furthermore, Russia will henceforth not import beef byproducts from European Union countries (see KOMMERSANT-DAILY of 17 April). Finally, also yesterday, even before the government meeting was over, the Russian Federation State Committee for Sanitary-Epidemiological Oversight suggested that imports be stopped from the United States of minced chicken meat owing to its bacteriological contamination.

Despite the measures already in place, Viktor Chernomyrdin assessed as unsatisfactory the system of state control in the sphere of imports and demanded that departments sharply enhance checks on the quality of food sold on the Russian market. The premier did not hide the fact that the main objective should be to reduce food imports. The thing is that the share of imported food was at an all-time high in 1995 of 50 percent, and many [imported] commodities monopolized the market. In this connection, Chernomyrdin stressed, given the comparatively high degree of saturation of the market, a rapid growth in imports can considerably damage — and not infrequently is damaging — the interests of Russian commodity producers. [passage omitted] [report includes the following boxed text]

With a view to raising the effectiveness of quality control over imported commodities, it has been proposed to:

— step up security on the state borders;
— put into effect a mechanism of responsibility for violating product certification rules;
— widen the network of regional branches of the State Committee on Standards;
— toughen control over the issuance of quality certificates;
— put in place a system of state registration of imported food.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

International Affairs

Ukraine: President Kuchma Meets Canadian Premier at Summit

LD2004132396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1211 GMT 20 Apr 96

[By Anatoliy Grigoryev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Itar-Tass) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien held detailed talks on what Ukraine and Canada can do to step up bilateral cooperation in the power industry and agriculture, said here on Saturday the Ukrainian president's press secretary Dmitriy Markov, commenting on the results of the behind-closed-doors meeting between the two leaders in Moscow today.

The meeting was held on the sideline of the nuclear security summit, for the second part of which the Ukrainian leader was invited..

The two statesmen discussed in detail ways of removing barriers to boost sharply economic and trade cooperation between the two nations, Markov continued.

The Ukrainian president expressed gratitude to Chretien for Canada's and his personal contribution to signing the 1995 memorandum of understanding on closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Kuchma expressed hope that the Moscow summit can become a stage in filling the important document with concrete content and in implementing the reached understandings.

Canada helped Ukraine much to come to the international arena, Kuchma told Ukrainian reporters after the meeting with Chretien. "However, our side displays, as usual, bureaucracy," he added.

Even the credits, the granting of which was discussed in 1994 during the state visit by the Ukrainian president to Canada, have not been realised, he stressed.

Ukraine: Kuchma Dissatisfied With Economic Cooperation With Canada

LD2004100996 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0830 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow — At a meeting this morning between Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma and Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chretien, dissatisfaction was expressed at the level of trade and economic cooperation between Ukraine and Canada.

Kuchma said that, despite normal relations between the two countries, the trade turnover between Ukraine and Canada currently amounts to as little as 60 million dollars [not further specified]. Kuchma told correspondents after the meeting that the credits, which were agreed in 1994, have not yet been used.

Presidential Press Secretary Dmytro Markov said that the sides stressed stepping up cooperation in the power engineering industry and agriculture. In particular, Kuchma expressed his interest in Canada's experience of building and operating thermal power stations.

Kuchma thanked Jean Chretien for Canada's contribution toward the signing of a memorandum on mutual understanding between the Government of Ukraine and the governments of the G-7 member states and the European Community on a long-term program for closing down the Chernobyl nuclear power station by the year 2000, and expressed the hope that this document "will be filled with specific content."

Kuchma said the summit of the G-7 plus Russia, which Ukraine was invited to attend, could become a landmark on the way toward filling the document with specific content and implementing the accords contained in it.

Ukraine: Kuchma Confirms One of Chernobyl's Two Reactors To Close

LD2004185396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1834 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Itar-Tass) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma confirmed that Ukraine will shut down one of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant's two operating reactors by the end of the year.

The statement was made during Kuchma's meeting with French President Jacques Chirac. The about 40-minute meeting was held in the residence of the French ambassador to Russia at Kuchma's request.

Chirac expressed the hope that Ukraine will comply with its obligations and shut down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by the year 2000.

Ukraine: Kuchma Urges Confirmation of Chernobyl Aid Commitment

LD1904193996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 19 Apr 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Leonid Kuchma hopes that the leading world powers will confirm their commitments on rendering financial aid to Ukraine in order to shut down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant at the Moscow summit on nuclear safety.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyrght owners.

Speaking on behalf of this country, Kuchma told Interfax that the parties "will confirm their adherence to the Memorandum on Mutual Understanding on the problem of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant."

IF Note: The Memorandum on mutual understanding on the problem of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was signed by leaders of G-7 industrialized states and Ukraine in December 1995 in Ottawa (Canada). In line with the document the West will grant $500 million to Ukraine for shutting down the Chernobyl plant in the form of grants and $1.2 billion as credits of international financial organizations and IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency].

In particular, Kuchma assumed that G-7 countries "could confirm their intentions to do their utmost in order to implement this goal" (to shut down the Chernobyl plant - IF).

Kuchma will fly to Moscow on Friday evening to attend the summit. He is expected to address the summit with a report on shutting down the plant.

For his part, Prime Minister Yevgeniy Marchuk told Interfax that "a great number of western politicians, even leaders of G-7 industrialized states, do not know what Chernobyl means for Ukraine and how much we pay for it." He said he made this conclusion after his meeting with British Prime Minister John Major, on a one-day official visit in Kiev.

According to Marchuk, Major was surprised that "the situation has practically not changed" after the signing of the Memorandum on mutual understanding between Ukraine and G-7.

At the same time Major understands, Marchuk said, that "the sarcophagus" (a cover above the fourth reactor) and spent nuclear fuel present the major problem. "He treated this problem absolutely seriously understanding that this is not only Ukraine's problem," Marchuk said.

The parties did not mention concrete sums of money related to shutdown of the plant, he said.

IF note: U.S. Vice President Albert Gore confirmed intention of the United State to render assistance to Ukraine to modernize its power engineering. "The United States, the European Union and many countries of the world will continue supporting Ukraine in its efforts to transfer to safer sources of energy," he said in an exclusive interview with Interfax in Washington Thursday. Gore also reminded that "the whole world promised to render material assistance to Ukraine" in shutting down the Chernobyl plant.

Meanwhile addressing the parliamentary hearings devoted to the Chernobyl catastrophe in Kiev Thursday, Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister on Security and Emergency Situations, said the Ukrainian government confirms its intention to shut down the plant before 2000 as it is stipulated in the Memorandum on mutual understanding between Ukraine and G-7 industrialized countries.

The Ukrainian government relies on the assistance of the world community while solving the problem of shutdown, Durdinets said. "Due to a complicated economic situation Ukraine cannot make this move without a real and concrete financial aid of the world community," he said.

Addressing the deputies, Chairman of the parliamentary commission on the Chernobyl catastrophe Vladimir Yatsenko said that the shutdown of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is possible "only in combination," under a reliable financial support of the West.

Ukraine's Supreme Soviet has adopted several recommendations on results of the hearings.

In particular, it was recommended to Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers to confirm National program for liquidating consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe and to support actions of Ukraine's Ministry on Chernobyl to develop and introduce a mechanism providing for annulling certificates of all categories of liquidators and injured people whose status was not confirmed.

It was recommended to the administration of the Ukrainian president to support the proposal to reward active participants of liquidation of consequences of the Chernobyl disaster with honorable presidential signs, military and special ranks.

Ukraine: Joint Ukrainian-Russian-Belarusian Appeal on Chernobyl

LD1904195496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1711 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 19 (Interfax-Ukraine) — On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada has adopted jointly with the parliaments of Belarus and Russia an appeal to the parliaments, heads of state and government of the CIS member-countries and an appeal to heads of state, international organizations and scientists of the world.

The appeal addressed to heads of state, international organizations and scientists of the world notes that "it is premature to raise the question of an immediate shut-down of the Chernobyl NPP [nuclear power plant] without resolving the whole package of the arising socio-economic and ecological problems, above all,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ensuring a reliable cover for the fourth power unit (which was the site of the accident on April 26, 1986, "IF-U" note), ensuring employment of tens of thousands technicians and workers of nuclear power plants and the town of the power engineering workers Slavutich".

The appeal to the parliaments, heads of state and governments of the CIS member-countries notes that "despite the measures taken, the Chernobyl problem remains acute to this day". It points out that "the questions pertaining to rehabilitation of the disaster stricken territories, social protection, high quality medical and every-day services of the population remain outstanding".

The parliaments of the three countries call for coordinated activities of parliaments and governments "in various fields: from preparing a corresponding legal basis to the implementation of target-oriented economic and social programs".

The appeal is described as "being particularly topical to the CIS member-countries the development of a common codification of the national laws in the field of radiation safety and social protection of the population".

The parliaments of the three countries have spoken out for "a coordinations of efforts by all the CIS members-countries for outlining a common program to ensure the protection of rights of the people" who took part in the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

The appeal has been prepared and signed by Semen Sharetskiy, Chairman of Belarus' Supreme Soviet, Yegor Stroyev, Speaker of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and Oleh Demin, Vice Speaker of Verkhovna Rada.

Ukraine: UN Official Reassures Victims on Chernobyl Aid

LD2204063096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0534 GMT 22 Apr 96

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 22 (Itar-Tass) — "I have no doubt that the world community will not leave alone the peoples of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus who suffered from the Chernobyl disaster," U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Yasushi Akashi said in an interview with Itar-Tass on Sunday during his visit to the Chernobyl nuclear power station and the "dead" city of Pripyat where Chernobyl personnel lived in the past.

"I'm more than sure that nobody will ever forget this dreadful disaster at the end of the 20th century, as it is impossible to forget the 50-year-old tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," he added.

Akashi participates in a two-day "roundtable" (starting on Monday) which was organised by the Ukrainian government with assistance from the United Nations.

The forum timed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, will be attended by ministers from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, responsible for overcoming Chernobyl aftermaths, as well as representatives from the U.N., several Western countries and donor organisations.

"Roundtable" participants will discuss today a closure of the Chernobyl station, construction of a new entombment, rehabilitation of the alienation zone and establishment of an international research centre on nuclear security in Chernobyl.

Ukraine: Kiev Satisfied With G-7 Summit Discussion on Chernobyl

LD2004204996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Interfax) — The results of the Moscow nuclear summit discussion on the Chernobyl plant are "on the whole positive" for Ukraine, Deputy Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Hryshchenko told Interfax-Ukraine Saturday.

According to him, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma convinced the summit participants to introduce certain changes in the final statement. In particular, the issue of a "cover" for the fourth reactor of the Chernobyl plant was included in the document.

"The most important is that not only the studying of the cover will continue, but measures to resolve this problem will be taken on their results," said Hryshchenko.

According to him, very serious progress in the issue of financing the plant's closure has been achieved.

He pointed to the fact that Kuchma was an equal among the summit participants. "He is a political leader whom everyone knows and who is talked with on equal terms," said Hryshchenko.

Ukraine: Results of British Prime Minister's Visit Reviewed

LD2104191696 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Leonid Kuchma met British Prime Minister John Major twice last week, at the G-7 summit in Moscow, and, one day earlier, in Kiev, where

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Ukrainian president received the visiting British leader. Vasyl Klymchuk comments:

[Klymchuk] From the start, official Kiev regarded the visit as the beginning of a new stage in the development of Ukrainian-British relations. Already, one can deplore the fact that the British prime minister's visit at the invitation of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma was too short to cover the entire range of issues concerning the future development of bilateral relations. But even a brief outline of these issues reveals good prospects for the development and deepening of close ties.

It would be logical to ask oneself who is more keen on such ties. Judge for yourselves. The youngest British prime minister in the 20th century, descended from a family of circus entertainers, professional politician John Major is believed by world experts to be in the twilight of a brilliant political career, having to deal with unique problems never faced by anyone before him. A Europe-wide ban on the export and sales of British beef has put thousands of farms out of business and undermined world confidence in the conservative approach to quality. It is unlikely to give the Tories a boost in the upcoming election. But there is time yet to search for new markets and acquire the weight of international influence through the export of capital or investment, mediation initiatives, and an active foreign policy, which ought to stop the decline in British voter confidence.

It appears that Ukraine, unlike any other eastern European country, has learned to use the minimum of negotiating time for maximum benefit possible under the circumstances. But even according to Major himself, Ukraine has covered a difficult path in the past four years, and it could not have been otherwise. One must prepare oneself for a long wait between the start of reforms and their first tangible results. Nobody in Kiev argued that, and, talking on Thursday about the development of bilateral cooperation between Ukraine and Great Britain, the two leaders concentrated on two main aspects. The first concerned cooperation in the field of international relations, particularly in the context of evolutionary developments in modern Europe, nuclear disarmament, NATO development, and consultations ahead of the Moscow summit. The second one dealt with purely economics and trade, and could well claim prime importance.

Seven hours of intensive work on 18 April brought about concrete results, particularly with regard to the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear plant. According to Leonid Kuchma, the West, besides wanting to shut down the plant, should also be willing to help us in this matter. Great Britain did express such will. Believing that Ukraine's political and economic successes will become a stabilizing factor in Europe, Britain will continue to provide aid to Ukraine, particularly in the development of power engineering. The British ambassador to Ukraine was instructed to prepare within two months a plan of necessary investment into Ukraine. Having discussed plans to set up an international investment company, the sides did not neglect the interests of British gas and oil companies. Britain is also ready to support Ukraine in its bid to join World Trade Organization and acquire access to European Union markets.

All these decisions, in theory, belong in the world of high politics. But the creation of conditions for their practical implementation will undoubtedly beef up the ordinary wallet.

Ukraine: Kiev Says NATO Enlargement Should be 'Long-Lasting Process'

LD2004205796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 20 (Interfax - Ukraine) — NATO enlargement should be a long-lasting process, said an official Ukrainian delegation which left for London and Brussels Saturday to explain Kiev's stand concerning NATO expansion eastward.

"If NATO expands eastward, Ukraine would not like to find itself between two fires," delegation member and Deputy Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament's Defense Commission Oleg Chornousenko told reporters on the delegation's departure.

Ukraine does not want to be a "bridge" or a "buffer" during NATO enlargement, he said.

The Ukrainian representatives will spend in London seven days during which they will meet with British MPs, defense officials and diplomats, Chornousenko said.

The Ukrainian delegation will then leave London for Brussels to visit the NATO headquarters and the Euro-Parliament, he said.

Ukraine: Shmarov Says Ukraine Will Not Join 'Anti-NATO' Bloc

LD1904132596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0950 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SUCEAVA (ROMANIA), April 19 (Interfax - Ukraine) —Ukraine will not join any military blocs which may be created in the former USSR as a counterbalance to NATO, Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov told journalists after

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

meeting with Romanian Defense Minister Gheorghe Tinca.

"Just five years ago, Ukraine established itself as a neutral, block-less country, and our military doctrine focuses on defense," Shmarov said, commenting on a statement by presidential candidate and Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov on the possibility of creating an "anti-NATO bloc" if NATO expands eastward.

"Another path may be determined only by the Ukrainian people, not by Zyuganov," he said, adding that each government has the right to choose for itself "how it will provide for its own security."

Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov feels that moves to divide the Black Sea Fleet have come into the political limelight now that Russia is getting ready to hold presidential elections.

This is what hinders moves to divide the Black Sea Fleet in line with appropriate agreements, Shmarov told reporters Thursday in the Romanian city of Suceava where he met with his Romanian counterpart.

But for the Russian elections, moves to divide the Black Sea Fleet would take fairly little time, Shmarov said.

"In its capacity as landholder Ukraine reserves the right to decide where the ships, units and command of its navy will hold base," Shmarov said. Besides, he added, a decision must be made on how long and on what conditions the Russian Fleet remains in Crimea.

If it is willing to compromise, Russia may meet those logical demands, and the Black Sea Fleet problem will be no more, Shmarov said.

Ukraine: Kiev, Moscow Officials Cited on Treaty, Yeltsin Visit

WS2204110096 Lvov POST-POSTUP in Ukrainian 5-11 Apr 96 p 3

[Unattributed report: "'The Friendship of Peoples' Is Over. The Fight for State Interests Has Begun" — first paragraph is POST- POSTUP introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time in five years of post-Soviet history we can say that relations between Moscow and Kiev are really of an interstate nature, which obviously includes a sharp battle for national interests. Historical brotherhood always ends when problems of debts, promotions, and ambitions emerge.

It seemed that by the end of March 1996 the Ukrainian and Russian sides managed to overcome obstacles to the Russian president's visit to Kiev. A political treaty between Ukraine and Russia was ready for signature as early as three months ago. Before the upcoming visit, the diplomatic activities on the part of Russian diplomats, and particularly on the part of Ukrainian diplomats, considerably increased. Within the period of eight days the prime ministers of both countries met four times; expert groups which were led by deputy prime ministers worked constantly. Top officials were constantly announcing official Kiev's stance. The problem of the Black Sea Fleet, which is the primary one (as well as the issue of handing over the strategic armaments — Russia is planning to acquire 30 strategic bomber aircraft of the TU-160 and TU-95MC types) was also discussed by the defense ministers in the town of Tysovets in Lvov Oblast.

However, the primary problem, regardless of the unprecedented intensiveness of Russian-Ukrainian diplomatic activities, remains unresolved. A specific agreement regarding the Black Sea Fleet — which should clearly determine the status of the city of Sevastopol and the presence of the Russian Fleet on Ukrainian territory — was of significant importance for Boris Yeltsin's visit to Kiev. Russian State Duma deputies expressed Russia's toughest stance: "Sevastopol is a Russian city and the Russian Navy's base."

Ukraine wants to regard the Russian Fleet as "foreign troops which temporarily remain on Ukrainian territory." Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Durdynets, head of the Ukrainian delegation at the negotiations held in Moscow last week, said in an exclusive interview given to POST-POSTUP: "Ukraine has been constantly looking for compromises and trying to resolve the urgent problems based on the principles determined by both sides. Ukraine has been accused of the fact that it abandoned the Sochi agreements reached in 1995 on the stationing of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy. I think that this accusation is groundless. Indeed, the Sochi agreements envisaged the separate stationing of both fleets; however, this does not mean that Ukraine agreed to remove its Navy from Sevastopol. Ukraine's stance is the following: The two fleets can be stationed separately, in different bays in the city without hindering one another; all the more so since our countries have declared a wish of becoming strategic partners. Meanwhile, the Russian side categorically insists that Sevastopol should only be the Russian Fleet's base. One has to understand that there is a limit of concessions which Ukraine cannot exceed."

The Kremlin accused Kiev of not wanting B. Yeltsin's visit. At the same time, the Russians referred to the Ukrainian president's press secretary, Dmytro Markov, who had allegedly stated: "We cannot disregard the fact that the state of affairs in preelection Russia may affect the already determined plans. In this case, a hypothetical postponement of Boris Yeltsin's visit will not be given

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

a good reception in Kiev." The Ukrainian Embassy in Moscow expressed in its statement astonishment over the fact that ITAR-TASS intentionally distorted the press secretary's words to place the responsibility for the potential postponement of Boris Yeltsin's visit to Kiev on the Ukrainian side.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, leader of the "Yabloko" Russian political association, described most vividly the diplomatic activities of Boris Yeltsin's team. In an interview given to POST-POSTUP, he said: "Currently, as the election campaign is under way, Yeltsin will sign anything, whenever, and wherever. Russian-Ukrainian relations should have been resolved a long time ago. The current measures undertaken by the party in power only proves its impotence." Russia's State Duma Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev, answering a POST-POSTUP correspondent's question on whether he approves of the Russian president's visit to Kiev, said: "The signature of the interstate treaty and Yeltsin's visit to Kiev will be expedient only if the agreements package contains a resolution of the Black Sea Fleet's problems. Otherwise we will lose the Russian Black Sea Fleet forever."

Until the last moment, Boris Yeltsin was stressing that the deadlines of his visit to Kiev would not be changed. While visiting Norway, he said at a news conference: "My next trip is to Kiev!"

There are many things on which Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kuchma would be able to agree and reach an accord on. However, the presidents of Ukraine and Russia "for the sake of the friendship of people" will not retreat from their countries' national-state interests. They will protect the interests of their ruling elites, and their decisions cannot be made outside the context of domestic political situations and the political processes which are going in both countries.

Ukraine: Delegation Concludes Official Visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina

LD1904165296 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0810 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo — A Ukrainian delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Volodymyr Khandohiy paid an official visit to the capital of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina on 17 and 18 April.

The visit by the Ukrainian delegation was occasioned by the present state of development of the peace process in the Balkans, above all, by Ukraine's direct participation in the operations of the multinational force and the implementation of the provisions of the Dayton Agreements, the Paris Peace Treaty, and the objective increase in the interest shown by the countries of former Yugoslavia in broadening cooperation with Ukraine.

During the first visit following the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the Ukrainian delegation held talks with Jadranko Prlic, Bosnian minister of foreign affairs, and his deputy, Hasan Dervisbegovic. The delegation was also received by Vice President Ejup Ganic and other official representatives.

At the center of attention of the talks was the issue of establishing bilateral relations, initiating the process of developing the treaty and legal base, and discussing specific sectors open to mutually advantageous cooperation.

During the meeting with Mr. Ganic, the head of the Ukrainian delegation passed a personal letter from Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma addressed to President of Bosnia-Herzegovina Alija Izetbegovic that, in particular, notes that Ukraine, which has made an important contribution in joint international efforts to regulate the Balkan conflict, will continue to attach great importance to the steadfast and timely implementation of both the military and the civilian aspects of the Dayton Agreements and is ready to play an active part in its implementation, particularly concerning socioeconomic stabilization in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The discussions that were held in Sarajevo demonstrated that both countries were very keen to step up bilateral Ukrainian-Bosnian relations and had a desire to develop cooperation on the principles of partnership and mutual accord.

During the visit to Sarajevo the delegation discussed the issues connected with the deployment of the 240th Independent Special Battalion of the Ukrainian Armed Forces as part of IFOR [Implementation Force]. [passage indistinct]

National Affairs

Ukraine: President Briefs Officials on G-7 Moscow Summit

LD2204102196 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0830 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — "We achieved our main aim at the G7 summit," Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma told a conference attended by government officials and chaired by Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk today. The president said the G7 confirmed its decision to grant more than $3 billion to close down the Chernobyl nuclear power station, to compensate for the loss of production capacities as a result of the station's decommissioning, and to modernize the domestic power engineering industry. The Ukrainian president pointed out "France's active and positive stand", in particular,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

as regards the "sarcophagus" issue. Kuchma said that a feasibility study will be conducted and a decision made on the future of the "sarcophagus" by the end of this year.

Kuchma also said that during his meeting with Boris Yeltsin "there was no pressure at all, there was a search for normal solutions." Kuchma said the Moscow summit convinced him that Yeltsin will be elected Russian president for another term.

Touching on the issue of overdue wages, grants, and pensions Kuchma pointed out the need to solve this problem as soon as possible. "We must search for additional sources of replenishing the budget," he said. The problem of settling the debts is due to the "absence of executive discipline," and regions, in particular, are to blame for this, the president said.

Ukraine: Roundtable on Chernobyl Aftermath Planned for 21 Apr

LD2104053296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0520 GMT 21 Apr 96

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 21 (Itar-Tass) — A two-day round-table meeting with the participation of Ukrainian, Russian and Belarus ministers, who are in charge of the elimination of the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster, and representatives from the United Nations, a number of Western countries, and donor organisations is to be held in Kiev on Sunday [21 April]. The meeting will begin with a visit to the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

Participants in the meeting are to discuss global environmental protection, the social consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and its impact on people's health, and approaches to the solution of post-Chernobyl problems in the stricken countries.

The meeting which, has been organised by the Ukrainian government, the U.N. Department of Humanitarian Affairs, and the U.N. mission in Kiev, is timed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl break-down.

Participants in the round-table meeting are also to devote attention to matters aimed at closing the Chernobyl nuclear power station down, at building the radiation-proof "sarcophagus", at rehabilitating the radiation-stricken belt around Chernobyl, and at establishing an international nuclear safety centre at Chernobyl, a spokesman at the U.N. mission here has told Itar-Tass.

During the tour of the Chernobyl nuclear power station, participants in the meeting are to plant 10 trees in the former Rudoi forest as a symbol of international cooperation in eliminating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

Ukraine: NTV Reports on 'Mutants' in Chernobyl Zone

LD2004160196 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Summary] In a special four-minute video report from the Chernobyl zone carried on NTV Television on 19 April, "Segodnya" correspondent Sergey Barabanov interviews Zhitomir scientist Professor Vyacheslav Konovalov, who is researching into mutants in Ukraine's Zhitomir Region. Over video of fetuses in jars, deformed animals, and plants the correspondent enumerates some of the professor's collection, "a foal with eight legs, a four-horned cow, a calf whose intestine was formed outside rather than inside the abdominal cavity, piglets with one head and two bodies and with two heads and one body, human embryos lacking limbs and skull bones — compared with these, deformed maize cobs and dandelions look like innocent pranks on nature's part."

Over video of village scenes, the correspondent continues: "According to official data, about 3,000 people have died over the 10 years from the dose of radiation they received. The number of people suffering from radiation-related sicknesses is up 800 percent in the region, and the number of mutants 150 per cent; one in five children here is born with physical abnormalities and one in three with psychological problems." Prospects for improvement in the life of local people are poor, given that the air they breath, water they drink, and food they eat are all contaminated by Chernobyl.

Barabanov says that Professor Konovalov works in virtually underground conditions, without finance, and constantly under pressure not to create panic. "Many of those who concealed the truth about Chernobyl, who said radiation could be combatted by mops and buckets, and who sent children in Kiev out to the 1 May demonstration under radiative rain are still in very influential places today. This is why Vyacheslav Konovalov hides the second half of his collection in a place known to him alone — just in case."

All museums have an interest in adding to their collection, the correspondent says, and Professor Konovalov should have no problem with his, since Chernobyl mutants will keep emerging for at least the next 50 years.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Ukraine: Radiation Background Above Normal in One Third of Ukraine

LD1904122496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0950 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 19 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — The radiation background is above normal in one third of Ukraine.

Fifteen percent of the forest area and five percent of the farm lands are contaminated to that extent, while 3,400 square kilometers of the Ukrainian territory are polluted by cesium-137 and strontium-90, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Vasiliy Durdynets told parliament, which has been hearing evidence on the Chernobyl disaster. For this reason 180,000 hectares of land and 157,000 hectares of forests cannot be used.

According to Durdynets, the radiation situation has stabilized and is closely monitored by appropriate agencies.

However, floods, forest fires and tornados may change the situation for the worse, he emphasized, while 200 tonnes of nuclear fuel remain under the concrete shroud over the fourth reactor of the Chernobyl station.

Durdynets made it clear that maintaining the shroud is a heavy burden on the country's economy and Ukraine expects the world community to cooperate in dealing with this issue.

A radioactive waste processing center has to be constructed in the vicinity of the Chernobyl station shortly, he said.

According to Durdynets, radioactive materials have been buried in about 800 pits, which are sources of danger, as are the so-called "hot" spots in the 10 kilometer belt around the station.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Belarus

Belarus: Lukashenka Sums Up Tour of Chernobyl-Affected Regions

LD2004164696 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, at a working meeting of the leadership of the Cabinet of Ministers and the presidential administration, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka summed up the first results of his three-day tour of the Belarusian districts affected by Chernobyl. The president's press service reported that Alyaksandr Lukashenka had instructed senior executive officers of the republic to prepare a specific plan for the implementation of all the proposals, requests and comments made during his many meetings with residents of villages and towns in Brest, Mogilev, and Gomel regions. The plan will be published in the press and its implementation will be personally supervised by the president.

Lukashenka has instructed the Cabinet of Ministers to prepare as soon as possible a resolution which would preserve the system of free meals for schoolchildren in the contaminated districts and the improvement of children's health at the budget's expense. He has ordered that the necessary number of places for children should be made available in sanatoriums in Belarus and on the Black Sea. Lukashenka emphasized that, being aware of the difficult situation of Belarusian citizens, he will not allow increases in rent and utilities charges.

Belarus: Lukashenka Criticizes Evacuation of Chernobyl Residents

LD1904124196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0950 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Apr 19 (Interfax-West) — Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said the evacuation of people from the areas affected most heavily by the Chernobyl disaster had been a mistake.

Addressing the leaders of the most heavily affected areas of Belarus Thursday evening in the city of Mogilev, Lukashenka said numerous evacuees were returning to their old homes.

Creation of new densely populated villages makes no sense if the evacuees are not provided with jobs, Lukashenka said.

Instead of making meaningless investment in the creation of new villages, the authorities should have moved the Chernobyl victims to old underpopulated villages in various parts of Belarus, Lukashenka added.

In the past three days Lukashenka visited different cities and villages of the Chernobyl zone of Belarus. Numerous amendments to his traveling schedule helped Lukashenka expose many drawbacks in the performance of both the local authorities and individual members of his administration.

Lukashenka sacked a deputy chairman of the Mogilev government and the governor of the Dribinskiy District and said he would demand that Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir and Minister for Emergency Situations Ivan Kenik render account for the state of affairs in the Chernobyl disaster zone.

Belarus: Sharetski Seen as Moscow's 'Counterbalance' to Lukashenka

WS1904142496 Minsk SVABODA in Belarusian 17 Apr 96 p 3

[Commentary by Aleh Hruzdzilovich: "Sharetski Has a 'Love Affair' With Stroyev. The Belarusian Speaker Flew Off to Turkey on His Russian Colleague's Plane"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The intensity of contacts of [Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman] Syamyon Sharetski with Russian Federation Council Chairman Yegor Stroyev cannot but provoke suspicions of a subsequent "plot" against the Belarusian president.**

The "cup of suspicions" may overflow due to the fact that the leader of Belarusian parliamentarians went on his last trip, to Turkey, jointly with Yegor Stroyev and, moreover, on the latter's plane. Even if Syamyon Sharetski became a trip companion of his Russian colleague for the purpose of economizing state funds (thank God not everyone has a state plane at his disposal), it is possible to speak about a kind of political alliance between these two politicians. They set a peculiar record of the number and duration of their contacts over the last month: a day in Minsk and another day in Brest during Y. Stroyev's visit to Belarus in mid-March; two days following the signing of the 2 April agreements in Moscow; furthermore, meetings during the visit of our parliamentary delegation to Moscow last week. You must admit that this is worth recording in the Guiness Book of Records!

Speaking seriously, however, it can be seen that quantity is already transforming into quality, and that a certain trend and results have become apparent. The trend can be seen in attempts to rise the rating of the Belarusian parliament with the help of those Russian politicians who are interested in creating such a situation where the Belarusian Supreme Soviet ceases to be a puppet in the hands of one man and becomes a real counterbalance to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

him. What are the results? The Belarusian speaker had found such an ally in the person of Russian Federation Assembly Chairman Yegor Stroyev, and this alliance soon bore its fruits.

During his last visit to Moscow (10-11 April), Sharetski was received at the very highest — even demonstratively highest — level. The program of his visit included meetings with Russian parliamentary leaders, a speech in the State Duma (by the way, a quite successful one), a conversation with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, and, on top of all this, a conversation with President Yeltsin lasting for almost an hour. I want to draw your attention to one curious circumstance reported by Moscow sources: In the course of the entire conversation, Yeltsin did not once mention Lukashenka's name. It was as if the Russian leader forgot the Belarusian president, with whom he was on the point of kissing only a week ago. Possibly, he had not yet "recovered" from Lukashenka's hugs on the "Red Porch" [in the Kremlin], but the reason for this may be found not only in a personal offense or other human emotions.

More likely, the Kremlin's emphatic regard for the Belarusian parliamentary speaker can be seen as a sign of support for all those forces in the Belarusian establishment which are capable of forming a civilized counterbalance to Lukashenka's dictatorial methods. Such a counterbalance, apart from rallies in the streets, may be found only in parliament. The Kremlin seems to have realized that unless it supports the Belarusian parliament, Moscow will continue to receive bad news from Minsk about events like those on 24 March or 2 April [rallies against integration with Russia]. This is completely unwanted by organizers of Yeltsin's election campaign, in which the Belarusian card is a trump one. In addition, the Belarusian president will be less dangerous and unpredictable as a political rival if there is a civilized opposition behind his back. It is beyond doubt that Russian politicians have already begun racking their brains how to fight the phenomenon of Lukashenka in the future.

Yegor Stroyev has apparently proposed his own scenario for Boris Yeltsin. Or, at least, he has forewarned Yeltsin by sharing his own information and observations made in Belarus. Moscow observers unanimously admit that Yegor Stroyev exerts a great influence on the Russian president. They explain the authority of the Russian Federation Assembly chairman not so much by the authority of his post as by his role of an informal leader of Russian governors, whose importance has considerably increased right now, on the eve of elections. (Incidentally, Stroyev has kept the post of governor of Orel Oblast.) In this sense, Sharetski has obtained, through Stroyev, a peculiar channel of personal influence over Yeltsin. This means that Sharetski gained more political weight and acquired more political autonomy. What use will Sharetski make of this "gift of fortune"? Unfortunately, modern Belarusian history proves in most cases that formal leaders become real politicians too late for both themselves and the country. However, let us hope that there is no rule without exceptions.

Belarus: Lukashenka Discusses Integration With Kazakh Official

LD2004182696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1404 GMT 20 Apr 96

[By Larisa Klyuchnikova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, April 20 (Itar-Tass) — Kazakh First Deputy Prime Minister Nyghmetzhan f and Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka on Saturday discussed a package of top- priority draft documents prepared by the Integration Committee of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Isingarin is head of the Committee, while Lukashenka is chairman of the Interstate Council of these countries.

The package includes a programme of top-priority measures for the implementation of the four-state treaty on deeper economic and humanitarian integration in 1996, measures concerning the start of activities of the Integration Committee and the Committee's cost estimate for May-December 1996.

Lukashenka highly assessed the Isingarin's position who is ready to work hard and considers it necessary to prove the efficiency of the quadrilateral treaty which was signed on March 29, he said.

The two leaders said it is necessary to convene a session of the Interstate Council ahead of a Commonwealth of Independent States summit.

Moldova

Moldova: Parliament Speaker Says Moldova Must Seek Neutral Status

LD1904182496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 19 Apr 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moldovan Parliament Speaker Petru Luchinskiy says there are no unsurmountable differences between the country's top officials, Luchinskiy told Interfax.

But he also admitted to the existence of personality clashes, with personal ambitions often taking the upper

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

hand. The speaker blamed this on a lack of traditions of Moldovan statehood.

On the conflict over renaming Moldovan into Romanian, Luchinskiy said the political aspect of the problem prevailed over its substance. As for land transactions, he said "all talk is about the timing of implementing the same idea."

He called on the president to get into talks with appropriate officials to discuss how to clear the backlog of issues and work out decisions to the benefit of the nation.

On excessive politicization of Moldovan deputies, Luchinskiy described this as a perpetual issue. He said the parliament would be less involved in politicking if its members were elected in majority constituencies rather than on party lists. At the same time, the speaker said there were practically no political squabbles in the Moldovan parliament.

Luchinskiy rejected allegations saying the parliament has become a stumbling block on the way of reforms, particularly land reform. He said the deputies did not reject the presidential initiative for land transactions, but put it off until autumn. But he also warned against seeing it as panacea. "One must try to play on the land issue," Luchinskiy said pointing out that 70-75 percent of the 1991-1992 land reform guidelines has now been firmly in place.

On parliamentary investigation of the circumstances of the Transdniesterian conflict, the speaker said this was aimed to give a general assessment of events rather than bring criminal charges.

But he accused Tiraspol of failing to react or delaying talks on the issues in hand. Luchinskiy said no matter what status is granted to the region, Moldova will be kept in one piece and that all its citizens must be given the chance of voting in presidential elections.

On a possible NATO enlargement to the east, the speaker said it was up to NATO and Russia, not Moldova to sort out the problem. "Our drive is known only too well: we want to maintain neutrality. We do not pose a threat to any one state and must seek the formal status of a neutral country," Luchinskiy said.

Asked if he planned to contest the presidential election, Luchinskiy said "yes" if he is fielded by an alliance of parties. The speaker said one party's support was not enough to win the poll. He said there could be no public peace at a time when each of more than 30 parties was seeking to arrive in office.

Moldova: Weekly Sees Growing Economic Dependence on Russia

AU2004155596 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau —19/04/1996 (BASA-press) — The basic principles of Dniestr's future status included in the draft presented by Ambassador Yuriy Karlov, special envoy of the Russian president to the talks with Tiraspol, "suit Moscow and cannot but open up prospects for the Russian policy in this region," noted today the weekly FLUX.

The draft "is part of the preparations for the Snegur-Yeltsin-Kuchma-Smirnov summit scheduled for May 17. The four leaders are supposed to sign a so-called transitional agreement which will serve as basis for the future status of Dniester.

"The main clauses which Yeltsin will try to obtain from Snegur will be related to Dniestr's right to self-determination, guarantees that Moldova will not unite Romania, separation in the event Moldova does so, military presence or at least military assistance," noted the weekly.

The Russian initiative and agreements signed by Premier Sangheli in Moscow "coincide with the tour made by Javier Solana, NATO secretary general, in Europe. It is obvious the Russian diplomatic efforts seek to counteract NATO extension to the East," said the weekly, adding Moldova should oppose the Russian strategy with a policy of the same caliber.

According to FLUX, Moldovan authorities should have more clear-sightedness and "state thinking," avoid getting stuck in "all sorts of 'details' of the status, since they did not obtain a clear definition of this region and, implicitly, there is no way they can know what Moldova intends to do with Dniestr further."

TARA noted that Premier Sangheli "does not wish to deal with Bucharest, no matter how deliveries of products are made — free of charge or against cash," because "he is a dreamer who wants to replace the nowadays reality with the yesterday's one."

Citing earlier statements by the premier that the standard of living in Moldova is higher as compared with Russia and Ukraine, TARA said "the premier distorts the truth not because he likes to," but because "he is but an ideal hatching hen for all those who suffer with nostalgia, and today he is due to hatch here the revival of the common economic space."

The premier is always displaying hostility to all Moldovan-Romanian cooperation projects, noted

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

TARA, adding "this metamorphosis is sure to have been caused by pressures from Kremlin."

After Moscow seized enterprises that still function in Moldova and monopolized gas, fuel and electricity deliveries, "Moldova is financially subdued by the former metropolis which brutally punishes any attempt to diversify the sources of energy.

"Day by day Bessarabia is becoming more and more dependent upon the Slavonic states. Sangheli's dream is a utopia called Russia," concluded TARA.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan: Uygurs Seek Independent East Turkestan

LD2104172396 Almaty UYGHUR AVAZI in Uygur 6 Apr 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "An Important Problem: We Also Have Friends in Europe"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Seventy years of the former Soviet totalitarian regime isolated the peoples of Turkic origin, whose historic descent, religion, and cultures are similar to one another and did not let them discover any information about their relatives living in the democratic Western world. The emergence of independent states in Central Asia in 1991 destroyed the artificial iron chain of the communist structure, created favorable conditions for reciprocal cooperation between fraternal countries, and also the restoration of our common home of Turkestan.

But the Uygur people, who historically played an important part in the development of the great civilization of the Turkic peoples, who have a sophisticated culture, and who brought into the world the people who launched the renaissance of Turkic culture, and who presented humanity with the 'Twelve Classical Melodies' [Uygur: on ikki muqam] and 'A Thousand Homes' [Uygur: ming oy], Makhmut Qashqariy [medieval Uygur scholar, compiler of an early Turkic dictionary], and Yusup Khas Hajip, are still languishing under the terrible repression of communist China.

The people of East Turkestan [Xinjiang-Uygur Autonomous Region of China] are the most long-suffering in the world. The prosecutors of the People's Republic of China are putting 10-14-year-old children in jail. In the prisons of Urumqi [main city of Xinjiang], Abulqadir Emet and Kerim Ghozha were imprisoned 15 years ago and are still kept there now.

Hesen Mekhsum has been in prison five years, Muzepper Ghozha four years, and Abbas Ghozha Himzhan and thousands of other politicians and religious prisoners, whose names we do not know, are kept there. In total tens of thousands of political prisoners are being terribly tortured in the modern prisons of the Xinjiang-Uygur Autonomous Region. The leaders of the People's Republic of China, in breach of UN international resolutions banning torture and other documents on human rights, are trampling underfoot the ethnic rights of the nationality that they have conquered.

Our Turkic relatives in Western countries are taking some measures to introduce East Turkestan's problems to the world and to help the East Turkestan liberation movement.

The international conference "The Lop Nur nuclear testing site of China and its impact on ecology," held in Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands, on 14-15 March, was one these measures.

The conference was organized by the Center for Turkestani and Azerbaijani Studies and Greenpeace in the Netherlands. About 150 people attended the conference. Those who took part in the conference included the following: Chingiz Aytmatov, the famous Kyrgyz writer, Kyrgyz ambassador to Belgium and the EU, and president of the Assembly of the Culture of the Central Asian Peoples; Erkin Alptekin, chairman of the Organization of Unrepresented Nationalities and chairman of the East Turkestan Union in Europe; Mehemmet Tyutyunchi, chairman of the Center for Turkestani and Azerbaijani Studies in the Netherlands; Michael van Valt, secretary general of the Organization of Unrepresented Nationalities; Jaap Rodenburg, executive officer for nuclear problems of Greenpeace; Johan Neyzing, a professor from Belgium; Hurqiz Iliyeva, president of the International Ecological Association of the Women of the Orient; Kamil Abbas, the famous musician and Uygur from the Netherlands; and many other politicians and scholars took part in the conference. [passage omitted: speakers criticize China's military tests in Taiwan straits; Lop Nur nuclear tests are very harmful for the people of East Turkestan]

Mehemmet Tyutyunchi reported on the aims and tasks of the conference. The Center for Turkestani and Azerbaijani Studies is chaired by M. Tyutyunchi, and was founded in Amsterdam by Turks living in the Netherlands in 1991. [passage omitted: its aim is to study East Turkestan and Turkic republics of the former Soviet Union, and to set up offices in the Turkic republics]

In his speech, Erkin [Alptekin] spoke in detail about the political, historical, legal, and demographic problems of East Turkestan. He accused the leaders of the People's Republic of China of pursuing a policy aimed at gradually exterminating the Uygurs and other nationalities of Turkic origin through dictatorship. According to the speaker, 210,000 people have died as the result of the Lop Nur tests, and millions of people are suffering from serious diseases. He also spoke about the Chinese authorities' restrictions on birth in East Turkestan, the settlement of Han [ethnic Chinese] from elsewhere inside the country, squandering the wealth [of East Turkestan], and the problems of rights. [passage omitted: Chinese nuclear missiles are dangerous; Lop Nur tests seriously harming the health of neighboring Kazakhstan; data from the London Institute of Strategic Studies, the United States and Russian mass media on

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the land, sea, and air forces of China; uranium-enriching centers set up in Urumqi and other cities of Xinjiang]

These centers process 250,000-300,000 tonnes of ore, process 250-300 tonnes of enriched uranium and a small amount of plutonium-239 a year. Approximately 100 nuclear charges, with a capacity of 10-100 kilotons, are being produced.

One point specifically worth paying attention to is that the conditions and quality of China's nuclear missile testing and production technology is inadequate. Nothing is being done to protect the environment. Nothing is being done to recultivate those areas from which radioactive ore has been extracted. In general, nothing is being done to clean the territories (70-80 percent of the Xinjiang-Uygur Autonomous Region) poisoned with radioactive substances. China's nuclear weapons, the Lop Nur nuclear testing site, and the nuclear industry are posing a major threat to the Central Asian states and causing an ecological disaster. The great states of the world and the progressive community must demand the closure of the Lop Nur nuclear testing site in China, and its redeployment inside China.

In short, we have put demands to the leaders of the People's Republic of China.

They are the following:

1. To respect the human rights and freedom of the people of East Turkestan, under the United Nations General Declaration on Human Rights;

2. To respect East Turkestan's right for self-determination, and create the democratic conditions to carry out this legal right; and

3. To stop the planned birth control and resettlement of the Han nationality in groups in East Turkestan. [passage omitted: Alptekin visited East Turkestani emigre leaders in Istanbul en route to Amsterdam, and discussed East Turkestan's problem with them]

The conference in Amsterdam was very useful for the interests of East Turkestan. First, our Turkic relatives in Europe and Greenpeace raised the problems of East Turkestan, which is a good start, a new cause for hope. Second, some information about East Turkestan's main problems and the situation of the liberation movement of East Turkestan reached Western Europe once again through the participants of the conference and the mass media. Third, we had a detailed exchange of opinions with the leaders and representatives of the East Turkestan movement. One more step was taken toward our unity in language, hearts and reciprocal cooperation.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I am happy to inform my respected compatriots that on 6 March the Kazakh Justice Ministry registered the Union of Uygurs.

[Signed] Qehriman Ghozhamberdi, president of the [Kazakh] Union of Uygurs

Kazakhstan: Prosecutor Calls For Ban on Kazakh Communist Party

LD2004164296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1548 GMT 20 Apr 96

[By Vladimir Akimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, April 20 (Itar-Tass) - The Kazakh Prosecutor-General's Office pushes for disbanding the republican Communist party.

An application signed by Prosecutor-General Maksut Narikbayev was sent to the republican Justice Ministry "to recognise the founding documents of the Communist party illegal and its activities — unconstitutional."

It is clear from the document of the Prosecutor-General's Office, the text of which was received by Itar-Tass here on Saturday, the Communist Party is blamed for staging several unauthorised rallies, marches and meetings in several Kazakh cities on March 16-17, which voiced support for the decision by the Russian State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) on denouncing the Belovezhskaya Pushcha agreements.

Leaders of Communist party committees, the document says, demanded restoration of the Soviet Union in their speeches as a single state of socialist orientation and pro-communist ideology.

However, independence, indivisibility and sovereignty of Kazakhstan are formalised in the republican Constitution.

The Prosecutor-General's Office claims that aims, tasks, slogans and calls as well as political actions carried out by the Communist party run counter to the provisions of the Constitution and other legislative acts of the republic.

Section 1 of the Rules of the Kazakh Communist party says that the country's nearest aim is to return to the socialist way of development and to take power by a group of working people led by the working class.

The party proclaims as one of its main aims restoration of socialist ownership of means of production in the state and collective forms.

In the opinion of the Prosecutor-General's Office, this points to the Communist party's desire to whip up

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

political tension and to destabilise the normal situation in the country.

The Prosecutor-General's Office demands that the government should take measures and actions commensurate with the threat.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan: Details of Central Asia, Caucasus Freight Route

LD2104181996 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 0830 GMT 21 Apr 96

["Transit: Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Europe — a route of integration and mutual understanding" — TURKMEN PRESS headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] Government delegations of the four countries [Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Georgia] agreed to resume the transit transport operations of the Uzbekistan- Turkmenistan-Azerbaijan-Georgia route at talks held in Tashkent on 17-18 April. A treaty to coordinate railway operations and an agreement to cooperate in the field of regulating transit transport between the states was initialized by Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister Yagmyr Ovezov; Ismail Jurabekov, first deputy prime minister of Uzbekistan; Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Abid Sharifov; and Akakiy Chkhaidze, the chairman of the Coordinating Council of the president of the Republic of Georgia.

The sides have taken specific steps toward creating a mutually beneficial transport regime. All four countries agreed to set up privileged tariffs amounting to 50 percent of current transit shipping rates. This will make the cost of exporting raw resources and their finished products significantly cheaper. As a result, every country will have equal opportunity to save hard currency.

The intergovernmental initialized agreement in Tashkent will give wide scope for interstate integration of economic processes, Mered Yazberdiyev, the head of a cabinet of ministers department, told a TURKMEN PRESS correspondent. Other states can join the transit shipping agreement, which will undoubtedly constantly increase the traffic of goods through this transport corridor, which will soon become an important alternative to the northern route through Kazakhstan and Moscow.

The Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport route is one of the 22 projects to be implemented through the European Union's program TRASECA (Transport Communication Between the European and Asian Continents). Being situated in the center of the Eurasian transport corridor, Turkmenistan has all the foundations to use the advantages of transit transport. The volume will increase to a great extent when a gate to the Persian Gulf will be opened in Sarakhs. By this time Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Georgia will put into effect an Asian-Caucasus transit corridor (via the Georgian port of Poti). In this way goods traffic from the Persian Gulf ports can have a direct route to the ports of the Black Sea.

It is envisaged that the heads of the four states will sign an agreement to cooperate in the field of regulating transit transport during the opening ceremony for the Tedzhen-Mashhad railway.

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan: President Departs for France on Official Visit

LD2104121996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1114 GMT 21 Apr 96

[By Vilor Niyazmatov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tashkent, April 21 (Itar-Tass) — Uzbek President Islam Karimov left today for France on a four day official visit. It is the second time the Uzbek leader comes to France after his visit to this country in autumn 1993.

During his present visit to France Islam Karimov will hold talks with the French president, prime minister, and minister of finance. The programme of the visit includes participation in the work of UNESCO Executive Council, and opening the Week of Uzbekistan in France held under the motto "Vigorous Growth of Science, Culture and Education in the Epoch of the Timurid Dynasty".

The Uzbek president will also visit Lyons, the industrial centre of France.

During the four-day visit a number of documents will be signed. Among them are agreements on partnership and cooperation, on avoiding double taxation, on mutual investment encouragement and protection, on cooperation in the field of tourism.

Uzbekistan: Police Chief Comments on Combating Drugs, Kidnapping

LD2004110496 Tashkent NARODNAYA SLOVO in Russian 18 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt]

Crime and Punishment

In recent years the capital of sovereign Uzbekistan has experienced intensive development, reminiscent of a turbulent river escaping from narrow mountain gorges into the expanses of plains. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Business life in Tashkent today is no different from the fullness and intensity of any other capital of a major state. Representative offices of world famous firms, hundreds of various joint ventures which are gaining strength, assimilating advanced technology and producing output whose quality is up to the best world level — all this attracts the attention not only of representatives of business circles. They include those who are pursuing their own — to put it mildly — self-interested goals, and would balk at nothing to reach these goals, and after committing a crime they immediately try to hide amid the millions of people in Tashkent.

Our correspondent met Police Major General E.N. Norgitov, head of the Tashkent main internal affairs department, and asked him about the measures being taken by the law enforcement bodies to maintain law and order in the capital.

[Correspondent] Erkin Narsadykovich, in April last year 'NARODNOYE SLOVO' published a recording of a conversation between us, when you talked about growing crime in the CIS countries, particularly in the Russian Federation, and about its effect on the rise in crime in Tashkent. How does the situation look now? What measures are the capital's militia taking to put a stop to these crimes?

[Norgitov] I would like to note one important detail. The interests of criminal circles in the Russian Federation are linked first of all to the drug trade, which as you know yields enormous profits. This is the reason why representatives of various criminal groups have an ardent and insistent desire to establish drug transit channels via Uzbekistan and its capital. The drugs themselves come from Tajikistan and Afghanistan, and also from Kyrgyzstan. In order to intercept this transit, we have set up a special group and equipped it with all that it needs to operate successfully. [passage omitted]

Since the beginning of this year, 40 kg of drugs have been confiscated from traders, including 1.8 kgs of heroin, 23.8 kg of opium, and 14 kg of marijuana. Investigations have shown that all this was planned to be transported to various regions of the Russian Federation for subsequent resale.

[Correspondent] You have talked about the fight against drug trafficking, but what other types of crime which are most typical of the CIS countries are also being "exported" to Uzbekistan?

[Norgitov] Not a single day passes now without a mention of hostage-taking cases in the list of crimes committed in various CIS countries (mostly in the Russian Federation). Our main internal affairs department received a call this January from a woman resident of Aktyubinsk in northern Kazakhstan, the gist of which was that this woman's husband and son in law had been abducted and were being held hostage on Kazakh territory, not far from Tashkent. The criminals who had captured them were demanding a large ransom in hard currency. As both the husband and son in law of the petitioner were fairly prominent in commercial structures — or, to put it more simply, were prominent businessmen — the criminals were demanding a $65,000 ransom for them. The criminals also threatened to deal with them physically if this amount was not delivered within the time limit given.

In short, the officers of our organized crime-fighting department had rather limited time to act. Moreover, they had to act and to make decisions in an extreme situation with no margin for error. It was some consolation to us that the criminals agreed to receive the ransom money in Tashkent.

They were caught red-handed when this ransom was being handed over. The criminals were citizens of Kazakhstan, and one of them had a previous conviction. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Erkin Narsadykovich, do close contacts between representatives of local criminal circles and their "colleagues" from CIS countries mean that, here in Tashkent, we are facing crimes not known before?

[Norgitov] Certainly. However, this does not mean that we are not ready to meet such unexpected cases. We have various services operating, including an analysis and forecasting service. Their findings show us the areas for which we have to prepare in advance. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Armenia

Armenia: Karabakh MP Meets Iranian Information Ministry Official

NC2004120896 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0830 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert ("LRAGIR OR" daily-PAST), 04/20/96 — RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] parliamentary press service reported that Chairman of National Council Arthur Tovmasyan met an Advisor of the Information Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mr. Askiar Ferdi in Stepanakert on 18 April.

Mr. Tovmasyan touched upon traditional friendly relations between the people of Iran and Karabakh and hoped that such relations will continue to improve in all spheres, particularly between the parliaments.

Speaker of RMK parliament provided an interview to the Iranian TV, which prepares a documentary about Caucasus. 6 of 45 total parts of the movie will be dedicated to Mountainous Karabakh.

Armenia: OSCE Envoy Says Peacekeeping Force for Karabakh Considered

NC2004121496 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0830 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert ("AZG" daily-PAST), 04/20/96 — "I can assure that OSCE consistently works in the direction of stationing peacekeeping forces in the zone of Karabakh conflict, after signing the Grand Political Agreement", said Special Envoy of Acting OSCE Chairman Colonel-Lieutenant Zoltan Matiush, who has been working in the region for over half a year.

He said that three representatives of OSCE (Philips Fluori from Switzerland, Norbert Paltia from Austria, and Joseph Atashnii from Czech republic) are expected to visit the region, to help with organization of a dialogue between the sides of the conflict, and to meet the leaders of Karabakh.

Mr. Zoltan Matiush is sure that signing of Grand Political Agreement is not an abstraction and, as an optimist, he expects that this will be possible either by the end of this year or in the beginning of next year.

Speaking about cease-fire violations he assured that military operations will not restart in the region, neither now, nor in the nearest future. He was assured in this after the recent visits to Azerbaijan and RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh].

Armenia: Turkish President's Proposal for Karabakh Settlement Cited

NC2004122296 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0830 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara ("AZG" daily-PAST), 04/20/96 — Turkish press reports that, in resolution of the Karabakh conflict, President Suleyman Demirel counts very much on the Clinton-Yeltsin meeting to be held in Moscow.

Demirel said that Turkey is worried by disagreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan and would like the USA to seriously participate in resolution of the conflict.

At the same time, Turkish press published Demirel's version for resolution of the conflict, which is based on the following basic points: territorial unity of Armenia and Azerbaijan should be preserved; Mountainous Karabakh should receive a very wide autonomy; Armenian forces should leave occupied territories; over one million of Azeri refugees should be allowed back in the territories where they lived.

Armenia: President Meets Russian Cooperation Minister for CIS

NC2004130596 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1538 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, April 19 (NOYAN TAPAN)—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received Friday [19 April] Russian Minister for Cooperation with CIS Valeriy Serov.

President press service reports that the sides discussed problems of restoration of the railway via Abkhaz Republic and a system of common energy supply, preparation of bilateral agreements on trade-economic cooperation between Armenia and Russia, as well as Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Armenia.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: President Counts on Further Relations With China

LD1904181996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 19 Apr 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Geydar Aliyev spoke of setting great store by friendly contacts between Azerbaijan and China hoping for dynamism in bilateral relations. Aliyev said at the end of talks with China's Foreign Minister Qian Quichen who ended a two-day visit to Baku.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Aliyev said the minister's visit set the scene for a widening of bilateral contacts, with the groundwork being set during his talks with Chinese officials in Beijing two years ago.

He said the minister had the opportunity of getting better insight into the internal situation and problems of Azerbaijan including a possible solution to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Aliyev said Baku and Beijing were unanimous about the principles of territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers and both condemned any separatist trends.

"We reaffirmed identity of positions on this and other international issues," he said.

The president restated Baku's willingness to seek a peaceful solution to the Karabakh problem despite Armenia's occupation of 20 percent of Azeri territory and the heavy plight of more than a million Azeri refugees.

He reiterated Baku's demands for a regional peace settlement including an immediate Armenian pullout, recognition of its jurisdiction over Nagorno-Karabakh, territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and repatriation of refugees.

Aliyev also reaffirmed his invitation to the Chinese president and prime minister to visit Azerbaijan.

China is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and can wield influence on world politics, something Baku takes into account while building relations with Beijing, one presidential source told Interfax.

He said Azerbaijan must have good relations with China hoping to resolve the Karabakh issue on the basis of international law and support from the international community.

The source said both countries attach great importance to the principle of territorial integrity which is crucial in the system of international law.

He spoke of Baku's appreciation of China's stand in the Security Council saying the Karabakh issue must be resolved on this principle.

"Beijing reaffirmed its position at a Security Council meeting on Tuesday," the source said.

For its part, China is no less interested in Azerbaijan's geopolitical position and Baku's influence on the mainly Turcic language countries in the east and west of the Eurasian space.

At the same time, the source pointed to the existence of the mainly Uigur regions preaching Islam in China's west.

In this connection, he stressed that even the Chinese press admitted to some problems in that northwestern autonomy. Baku and Beijing both believe that these closer relations on formal level and people diplomacy would help resolve the problem.

The source does not rule out that China may have its own interests in Azerbaijan in the light of the luring prospects of Azeri oil exports.

He said Aliyev and the Chinese minister had also discussed oil cooperation between the two countries. China is keen to redevelop older oil fields which Baku believes are useless. But China has technologies to help extract the remaining oil reserves.

Azerbaijan: Aliyev: Ex-Defense Minister Gaziyev To Be Treated Fairly

LD2104215096 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Apr 96

[From the "Itogi" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Begin recording] ["Itogi" correspondent Marianna Maksimovskaya from Baku] Immediately after Moscow handed over to Azerbaijan Rahim Gaziyev, former minister of defense of the republic, he was placed in this solitary confinement cell in the Baku Police Directorate. Another two political opponents of President Geydar Aliyev, who were arrested in Baku in the middle of the week, were also dispatched there: Former Prime Minister Panah Huseynev and (Fazil Karimov), an Azerbaijani Peoples' Front spokesman. [passage omitted]

[Maksimovskaya] Baku is continuing to insist that Mutalibov is extradited. President Aliyev said in an interview to our program today that he assessed the extradition of Gaziyev and the arrest of Mutalibov by Moscow as further confirmation of the good cooperation between Azerbaijan and Russia. In the opinion of the president, Mutalibov should be handed over to Azerbaijan as quickly as possible.

[Aliyev, seated on leather armchair with flag of Azerbaijan behind him] I think that he should return to his homeland and stand before the law and I think that the law will be just and tolerant toward him.

[Maksimovskaya] Officially, Mutalibov and Gaziyev were arrested under the treaty on legal assistance between Azerbaijan and Russia. Although the leaders of Azerbaijan opposition parties link the decision of Moscow with certain concessions on the part of Baku.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Araz Alizade, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Azerbaijan, identified by caption] On the 8th or 9th [month not specified] — I do not remember the exact date — Azerbaijan, out of its 40 percent share in the Shahdeniz field in the Caspian Sea, gave 10 percent — moreover, did not sell it but simply gave it — to LUKoil. On the 10th, the Azerbaijan Prosecutor's Office, which in May 1995 was refused the extradition of Mutalibov, once again appealed to the Prosecutor's Office of Russia for the extradition of Mutalibov, and Mutalibov was arrested on the night of 11th-12th. A direct link can be seen even by the untrained eye.

[Maksimovskaya] President Aliyev said that such claims are a primitive invention and, he said, even offend him.

[Aliyev] Russia and my country are cooperating very well and our cooperation is not affected by the political situation and cannot depend upon, you know, whether a criminal is handed over to Azerbaijan or not. [passage omitted]

[Maksimovskaya] We made a special visit today to the solitary confinement cell where Rahim Gaziyev is being held to meet him and to find out what conditions he was being held in.

How are they treating you? Do you feel alright?

[Gaziyev] I feel alright. I do not have any complaints against the collective, the directorate, or the management of this institution.

[Maksimovskaya] And to all appearances, President Aliyev even intends to make a broad gesture and may pardon his political rival, naturally, provided Gaziyev himself changes his tough stance today.

[Gaziyev] He should find out whether I am a traitor, and if I am, I should not be pardoned but should be shot.

[Aliyev] Our justice is just. If a man admits his guilt, repents, tolerance is always shown toward him. [passage omitted] [end recording] [video shows interview with Aliyev at airport, in office, jail, archive video of Gaziyev, Mutalibov]

Azerbaijan: Musavat Party Secretary Hajiyev Detained

NC1904202496 Baku TURAN in English 2042 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, 19 April 1996, TURAN — April 18 at 10 a.m. the Secretary of Musavat [Equality] party, Arif Hajiyev, was called to 16th Police Department of Baku's Narimanov region. He was called to give evidence due to arrest of ex-Premier, Panakh Guseynov. Earlier Arif Hajiyev refuted false information of the press-service of Ministry of Interior that during detention of ex- Premier, Panakh Guseynov, Arif Hajiyev was there and escaped from the policemen.

As Vagif Hajiyev, brother of Arif Hajiyev, when interrogated Hajiyev in 16th Police Department, the investigator attempted to initiate criminal proceedings against Hajiyev and charged him with concealment of wanted person. However, the court of Narimanov region did not comply with his request. The court said that Arif Hajiyev is the former Deputy of the Milli Mejlis and in accordance with the legislation Azeri Parliament must give permission for his arrest.

The press-service of Musavat party told TURAN this morning that Arif Hajiyev is still held in the Police Department, though the authorities do not have the right to hold him more than 3 hours.

Today there will be the session of the Milli Mejlis and the issue related to Arif Hajiyev's detention will be discussed there.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.